

DEAD MEN TELL
UNUSUAL
TALES



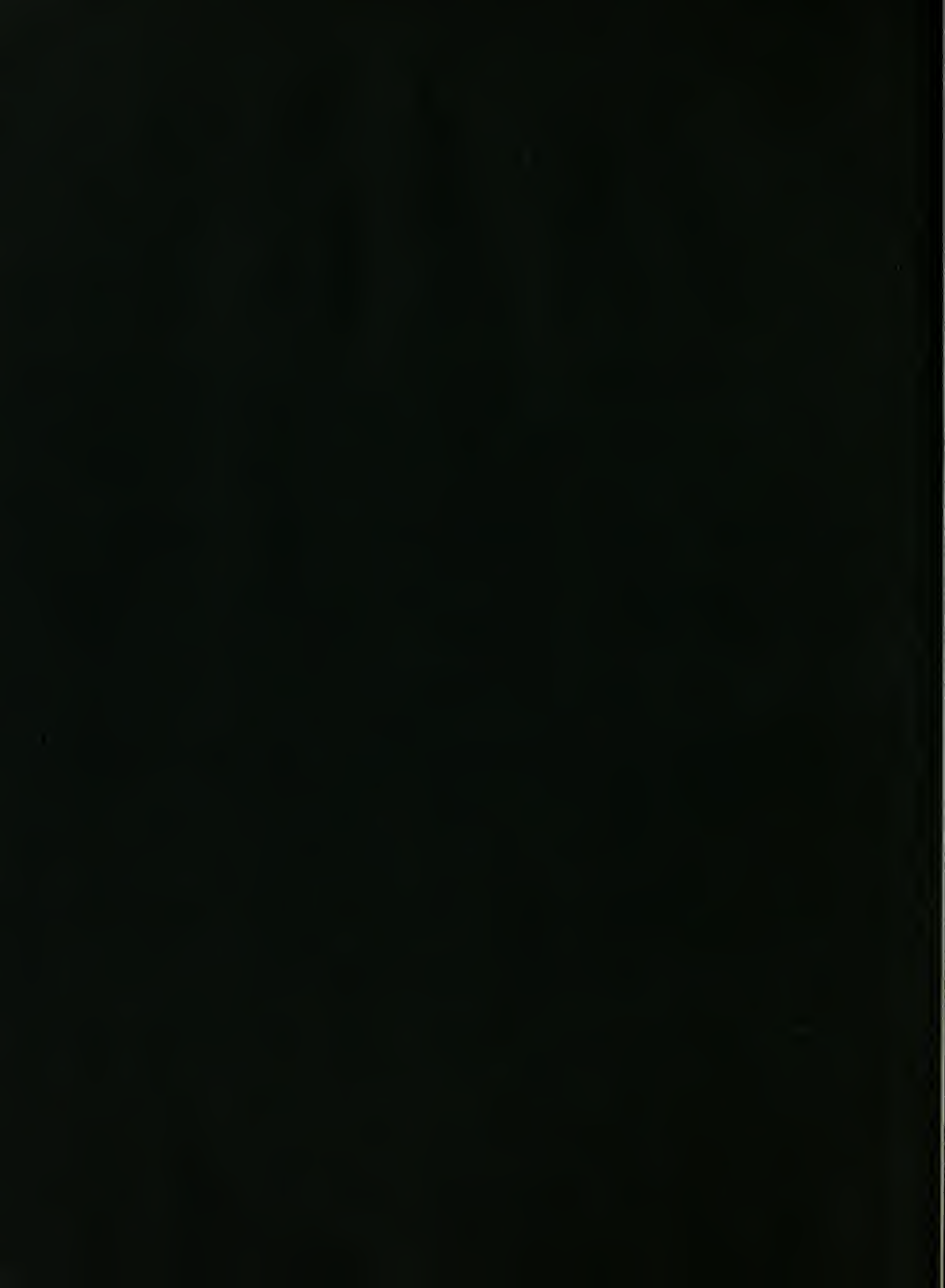
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WESTON
LEADERS IN LEDGER PAPERS



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DEAD MEN TELL UNUSUAL TALES



DEAD MEN
TELL
UNUSUAL TALES

UNUSUAL OLD DOCUMENTS
GLEANED FROM A RECENT
PRIZE CONTEST IN THE
INTEREST OF BETTER
PUBLIC RECORD MAKING



DALTON, MASSACHUSETTS
BYRON WESTON COMPANY

1927

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DALTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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ONE evening late in the Fall of 1925, a group of men sat toasting their shins before the blazing logs, which crackled pleasantly in the club house fireplace. Guns and golf clubs had been laid aside for the day. The odor of toasted chestnuts filled the room, and a soft-footed waiter had departed, leaving behind a capacious bowl filled with doughnuts, and a huge pitcher of sweet cider, with an adequate supply of glasses. These things, added to the soothing heat of the fire, had mellowed the company into a reminiscent mood.

Among those in the gathering were a well-known County Recorder, an educator of note, and an executive of the Byron Weston Company, *Leaders in Ledger Papers*.

During a lull in the conversation the Recorder mentioned the fact that a very odd deed had been recorded in his office a short time previously that would arouse a good deal of mirth if it were to be published. This turned the talk to the subject of famous old documents, including wills, mortgages, and other conveyances, public and private, and each of several persons in the group called to mind some particular record which appealed to him as distinctly unique and interesting.

“Buried in the public archives of this country, there are, undoubtedly, documents that if brought to light and published would make wonderfully interesting and informative reading,” said the County Recorder.

“Why not have the Byron Weston Company ask its many public official friends to dig through their old records for such material?” said the educator. And thus was born the idea of the contest, of which this book is the fruit.

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS

IN planning this contest the entire country was divided into twelve geographical divisions and a first and second prize were offered for the best and next best in each group. The awards were beautiful Elgin watches.

It would take many volumes to print all the contributions received. Therefore, in the limited space we have, we are reproducing all of the prize winners and a few of those that gained honorable mention.

GROUP 1

FIRST PRIZE

W. L. Churchill, Register of Deeds
Androscoggin County, Auburn, Maine

SECOND PRIZE

Chester S. Bavis, Register of Deeds
Worcester District, Worcester, Mass.

GROUP 2

FIRST PRIZE

Reuben B. Oldfield, Clerk
Steuben County, Bath, New York

SECOND PRIZE

John R. Morris, Register of Deeds
Passaic County, Paterson, New Jersey

GROUP 3

FIRST PRIZE

Arthur G. Cole, Chief Clerk
Health Department, Washington, D. C.

SECOND PRIZE

George C. Keith, Deputy Recorder
of Deeds
Lancaster County, Lancaster, Pa.

GROUP 4

FIRST PRIZE

D. L. Corbitt, Office of the Secretary
N. C. Historical Commission,
Raleigh, N. C.

SECOND PRIZE

J. P. Ballenger, Clerk, Probate Court
Greenville County, Greenville, N. C.

GROUP 5

FIRST PRIZE

Peter A. Brannon, Acting Director
Dept. Archives and History,
Montgomery, Ala.

SECOND PRIZE

Mora B. Fariss, Clerk and Master
Maury Chancery Court,
Columbia, Tenn.

GROUP 6

FIRST PRIZE

Otto Stoll, Register of Deeds
Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan

SECOND PRIZE

W. J. Bower, Deputy Recorder
Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, Ohio

GROUP 7

FIRST PRIZE

Myrtle Tanner Blackledge, Superin-
tendent Photo-Folio Department,
Cook County Recorder's Office,
Chicago, Illinois

SECOND PRIZE

Sam Ryerson, Recorder of Deeds
Rock Island County, Rock Island, Ill.

GROUP 8

FIRST PRIZE

Morris Elder, Treasurer
Montgomery County, Mt. Ida, Ark.

SECOND PRIZE

J. M. Marshall, Treasurer
Upshur County, Gilmer, Texas

GROUP 9

FIRST PRIZE

S. J. Gottneid, Deputy Clerk
Douglas County, Omaha, Nebraska

SECOND PRIZE

George M. Wagner, Treasurer
Frontier County, Stockville, Nebraska

GROUP 10

FIRST PRIZE

William Barber, County Clerk and
Recorder

Pueblo County, Pueblo, Colo.

SECOND PRIZE

Mrs. Orilla Downing, Clerk
District Court

Park County, Cody, Wyoming

GROUP 11

FIRST PRIZE

William A. Hyde, Probate Judge
Bannock County, Pocatello, Idaho

SECOND PRIZE

Aaron F. Parker, Treasurer
Idaho County, Grangeville, Idaho

GROUP 12

FIRST PRIZE

Ruth C. Collier, Office of Board of
Commissioners

Multnomah County, Portland, Oregon

SECOND PRIZE

F. A. Devleming, Auditor
Garfield County, Pomeroy, Wash.



UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT TO FIT THE CRIME

Yr. 1753

*Submitted by W. L. Churchill, Register of Deeds
Androscoggin County, Auburn, Maine*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 1

STRANGE, indeed, were the ways of mid-eighteenth century folks, from a 1926 viewpoint, at least. Punishment of crime, phraseology of documents, spelling, punctuation and documentary form seem queer to us. Likely it is that if a similar contest is conducted in 2026, some of our modern documents will be submitted as unusual, odd and peculiar.

Mr. Churchill submitted the following exact copy of a public record which teems with interest and novelty:

Pr sentments brought in by the Grand in Quest at a Court holden 25: Octob:
53: (1753) at Yorke, for the County of Yorke.

1. We present Jone, the wife of Jon. Andrews for selling of a Firkin of butter unto Mr. Nic: Davis yt had two stones in it, wch contayned Fourteene pounds want two ounces in weight. This presentment owned by Jone Andrews & Jon Andrews, her husband in Five pound bond, is bound to stand at a Towne meeting at York & at a Towne meeting at Kittery till Two hours tyme be expired, with her offence written in Capitall letters pinned upon her forehead.

Ye injunction fulfilled at a Commission Court according to order.

Satisfied by Johan Andrews at Yorke.

EMINENT DIVINE COMMENDS SOUL TO GOD Yr. 1753

*Submitted by Miss Mary E. Lamport, Office of Registry of Probate
Hampshire County, Northampton, Massachusetts*

AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

JONATHAN EDWARDS, minister at Northampton from 1726 to 1750, preached sermons so full of the wrath of God and damnation of souls that it is said some of the weaker members of his congregation had to be carried, fainting, from the meeting-house. He was finally dismissed from the Northampton church after a stormy period, one reason being that he refused to give the sacrament to those who could not give proof of having been converted.

His will may be found today, together with a lengthy inventory of his estate, in the Registry of Probate at Northampton. Below we quote the preamble:

In the Name of God Amen, the fourteenth day of March 1753.

I, Jonathan Edwards of Stockbridge, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New-England, being in my usual State of Health of Body, and in the perfect Exercise of my Understanding & Memory, through the Goodness of God; But Considering the Frailty & Mortality of Mankind, and having much in the Infirmary of my Constitution to put me in Mind of Death, and make me Sensible of the Great Uncertainty of my Life, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament.

And first of all, I give and Commend my Soul into the Hands of God that gave it, and to the Lord Jesus Christ its glorious, all-sufficient, faithful & chosen Redeemer, relying alone on the free and Infinite Mercy & Grace of Good through his Worthiness & Mediation, for its eternal Salvation; And my Body I commend to the Earth, to be committed to the Dust in decent Christian Burial, at the discretion of my Executrix hereafter named; hoping, through the Grace, Faithfulness and almighty Power of my everlasting Redeemer, to receive the same again, at the last day, made like unto his glorious Body.



LEAVES PROPERTY TO LORD, JESUS CHRIST

Yr. 1884

*Submitted by Chester S. Bavis, Register of Deeds
Worcester District, Worcester Massachusetts*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP I

FREQUENTLY we have heard of property being left to distant, obscure relatives, and often persons, in no way related to the decedent but who may have, perhaps, rendered an act of meritorious service during the life of the decedent, have been the recipients of the favor of a large property holder,—but, we believe we are here able to cite the first and probably the only instance on record where a religious devotee willed his entire property, if you please, to the Lord, Jesus Christ, in return for the many blessings and favors conferred upon him during his lifetime.

The will, dated as of July 5th, 1884, is, in facsimile form, as follows:

KNOW YE BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, Charles Hastings of Ashburnham, in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Gentleman, in consideration of love and good will of the Lord Jesus, and one cent found on the premises of His, the rightful owner of all lands, as recorded in First Book of Laws, Bible, Fiftieth Psalm of King David, 9th, 10, 11 & 12, & 23d & 24th verses, as therein contained, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby GIVE, GRANT, and CONVEY unto the said Lord Jesus, the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, a portion of the late Col. Jos. Jewett's land, garden, and store &c (the store erected one hundred years ago) and all buildings and lands which is deeded by Charles Norwood of Richmond, County of Cheshire & State of New Hampshire (the place formerly Henry Vanness store lot) in the village of Ashburnham, Massachusetts) to me, Charles Hastings, and bounded as in said deed, which is recorded in Worcester County Records, May 19, 1882, Book 1121, Page 223, for reference; containing about half an acre of land, be the same more or less. The said property is deeded in trust. Reserving however the right to occupy & improve, make repairs,

pay Taxes, Insurance Policys, &c., &c., in fact retain it under my control as agent, and making all proper reservations for myself & others, during my natural life; the two Southwest chambers & one of the store rooms below to be kept for Historical rooms, for relics of many kinds, & not to be let, such as belonged to Susan W. Hastings and others, that nothing to be sold, neither real or personal property, forever; but kept in trust for memorial, by those who have full Faith in the Blessed Lord Jesus, and to continue by His approbation forever, to occupy according to His will.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I, the said Charles Hastings, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 30th Thirtieth, day of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and eighty four. Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us

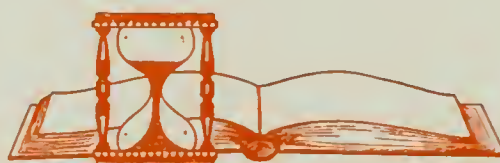
J. N. Hastings
Sarah R. Hastings
Wm. P. Ellis

Charles Hastings (seal)

Worcester ss. July 2, 1884. Then personally appeared the above named Charles Hastings and acknowledged the within instrument to be his free act & deed.

Before me William P. Ellis Justice of the Peace.
Rec'd July 5th 1884 at 8h. A. M. Ent'd & Ex'd.

By Harvey B. Wilder Regr.





A MERE TWO AND ONE-HALF MILLION ACRES Yr. 1811

*Submitted by Reuben B. Oldfield, Clerk
Steuben County, Bath, New York*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 2

AMONG the many rare historical documents which find safe-keeping in the Steuben County Clerk's Office is the following letter written by Lord, Sir John Lowther Johnstone of North End Fulham, near London, in August, 1811. Lord Johnstone, who had inherited the vast American holdings of Lady Bath and Sir William Pultney, at the time of his writing this letter was the owner of upward of two and a half million acres of fertile land in western New York.

The communication, which was addressed to Robert Troupe, Esq., at Albany, New York, (Mr. Troupe being the American agent of the estate), sets forth most interestingly and dramatically the mental attitude of a large land holder who probably anticipated the loss of his American property following in the wake of the Revolutionary War. The letter reads:

My dear Sir—

I have received your letters of the 10th & 30th May and of the 5th June last. It gives me great pleasure to learn that you have got the Salver in safety about which I was rather uneasy and am glad that you so highly approve of it. It was very much admired here.—

The affair of the Little Belt, Capt. Brigham, with Commodore Rogers has made a great noise here; but there is no doubt on my mind nor I believe hardly upon any one here, from the positive affirmations of Capt. Brigham, his officers and crew, that the Little Belt was *fired at first* by the United States Frigate; and it is difficult at present to say what turn this unfortunate affair will take.

These frequent differences are much to be lamented, but I hope & trust that this affair will terminate amicably. I am naturally anxious on this head for in event of a war between the two countries I should be in great apprehension as to the safety of my property tho' I believe my Estates are more secure than some others by some act of the Legislature of New York,—and as to which I think you once wrote to me.

I have it in contemplation provided my health permit to visit America before the expiration of the time you named for keeping the Estate—when we might arrange together as to its sale should it be thought advisable—I hope your expectations as to its value after retaining it a few years longer under your management will be realized.

I could wish very much that you would be so good as to transmit hence Maps or materials to make a general Map of my property in America,—you can suggest to me how this can best be done, and which may give me a clearer idea of it.

Our arms have lately been very successful both in Spain and in Portugal under the Command of Ld Wellington & Marshall Berford who have both evinced themselves fully able to cope with the ablest of Bonaparte's Marshalls; the most successful & triumphant result is looked for from this contest in which the fate of almost all Europe is involved. If the Portugese & Spaniards continue firm & united in the cause there is little to be apprehended. The public attention here is divided just now between the important events expected from that quarter—and the very dangerous state of the King's health whose life is still in imminent danger—and the idea of losing so worthy and excellent a Monarch fills every one with grief. This event would occasion a dissolution of Parliament, and of course a new election in which I should be greatly interested in getting the Members I should nominate returned for Weymouth.

I am sorry that I have not as yet been able to send over the Merino sheep—I applied to Mons. Misegarz a Spanish Merchant who undertook to purchase the sheep, but the Regency of Spain would not suffer any more to be sent out of that Country. I have heard that there are great quantities in America, and it occurs to me that you might probably be able to purchase 20 or 30 and I would remit you the money for this purpose if it be practicable.

I remain, My Dear Sir,

Very Sincerely yours

John Lowther Johnstone.



MEN, DOGS AND WHISKEY MIXED WELL BACK IN Yr. 1850

*Submitted by John R. Morris, Register of Deeds
Passaic County, Paterson, New Jersey*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 2

FT is the pleasure of the writer to reproduce herewith a copy of a record found in the office of the Register of Deeds at Goderich, Ontario, Canada.

I bet John Stewart alias IIII a bottle of porter to be drunk together that his dog will not on the 14 Augt 1850 weigh as much as my dog, his dog being called Blucher & mine Bruin—the bet to be null and void if either dog is dead.

Those were the good old days before Prohibition, when men were men, dogs were dogs, and bottles of porter were bottles of porter. Won't you bring back the olden joy days; the golden play days of long ago?



WHEN WASHINGTON FIRST WENT DRY

Yr. 1832

Submitted by Arthur G. Cole, Chief Clerk Health Department, Washington, D. C.

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 3

A PROPOS the present controversy relative to the success or failure of the enforcement of the Volstead Act, and the oft-repeated attempts at its modification, the following facsimile copy of an original document, recorded nearly one hundred years ago, proves of great interest.

The subject is taken from a page in the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Health, of the District of Columbia, August 14, 1832.

Examination of the records of the Board of Health of a few days previous indicates that the district was threatened with an epidemic of Asiatic Cholera, and this was one of the measures adopted to prevent its spread:

WHEN WASHINGTON FIRST WENT DRY

Resolved, That the Board recommends to the several religious societies in Washington (as calculated to preserve the health of this community) to refrain for a time, from holding night meetings.

The Board being fully impressed with the belief that the use of ardent spirits is highly prejudicial to health, and the Corporate Authorities having decided that this body posses full power to prohibit and remove all nuisances, and the late Attorney General McWirt, having officially given it as his opinion that the Board of Health have, under the charter and the acts of the City Councils, sufficient authority to do *any* and *every* thing which the health of the City may require—therefore,

Resolved, That the vending of ardent spirits, in whatever quantity, is considered a nuisance, and as such, is hereby directed to be discontinued for the space of ninety days from this date.

By order of the Bd of Health.

(Signed) Jas Larned Secy



INDIAN NATIONS DEED LAND TO PENNS

Yr. 1768

*Submitted by George C. Keith, Deputy Recorder of Deeds
Lancaster County, Lancaster, Pennsylvania*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 3

LINKED closely with the founding and settlement of the State of Pennsylvania is the name of Penn. Thomas and Richard Penn, sons of the founder of the Quaker State, the famous William Penn, were greatly enriched by the settlement of disputes with the Indians concerning boundaries. At one time they were in possession of over 25,000,000 acres, with more than 200,000 inhabitants, which was exempt from taxation.

Mr. Keith's entry, copy of a Deed from the Chiefs of the Six Nations to Thomas and Richard Penn, follows:

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL:

We, TEYANHASARE, alias Abraham, Sachem or Chief of the Indian Nation called the Mohocks; SENUGHSIS, Sachem or Chief of the Indian Nation called the Oneidas; CHENUGHIATA, alias Bunt, Sachem or Chief of the Indian Nation called the Onondagoes; GAUSTARAX, Sachem or Chief of the Indian Nation called the Senecas; SEQUARISSERA, Sachem or Chief of the Indian Nation called the Tuscaroras; and TAGAIA, Sachem or Chief of the Indian Nation called the Cayugas; being met together in a general Council of the Six Nations, convened by The Honorable Sir William Johnson, Baronet, His Majesty's Superintendant of Indian Affairs for the Northern District, at Fort Stanwix, for the purpose of settling a general Boundary Line between the said Six Nations and their Confederates and dependant Tribes, and His Majesty's middle Colonies;

SEND GREETING:—

WHEREAS, the said Boundary Line has, at this general Council, been settled between us, the said Sachems or Chiefs and the said Sir William Johnson, as is expressed in a certain Instrument of Writing by us executed, and bearing equal date with these presents:

NOW KNOW YE, That We, the said Sachems or Chiefs, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, to us in hand paid, before the sealing and delivery of these presents, by the Honorable Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, true and absolute Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, HAVE granted, bargained, sold, released and confirmed, and by these presents, for us and the said Six Nations and their Confederates and dependant Tribes, all whom we represent, and by whom we are thereunto authorized and empowered, DO grant, bargain, sell, release and confirm unto the said Thomas Penn and Richard Penn:

ALL THAT PART of the PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA, not heretofore purchased of the Indians, within the said general Boundary Line, and:—

BEGINNING in the said Boundary Line, on the East side of the East Branch of the River SASQUAHANNA, at a place called OWEGY, and running with the said Boundary Line down the said Branch on the East side thereof till it comes opposite the Mouth of a Creek called by the Indians AWANDAE, and across the River and up the said Creek, on the South side thereof; and then along the Range of Hills called Burnets Hills by the English, and by the Indians, on the North side of them to the Head of a Creek which runs into the West Branch of SASQUAHANNA, which Creek is by the Indians called TIADAGHTON; and down the said Creek, on the South side thereof, to the said West Branch of SASQUAHANNA; then crossing the said River and running up the same, on the South side thereof, the several courses thereof, to the Fork of the same River which lies nearest to a place on the River OHIO called KITTANING; from the said Fork by a *strait* line to KITTANING aforesaid, and then down the said River Ohio, by the several courses thereof, to where the Western Bounds of the said Province of PENNSYLVANIA crosses the same River, & then, with the said Western Bounds to the South Boundary thereof, and with the South Boundary aforesaid to the East side of the ALLEGANEY Hills; and with the same Hills on the East side of them, to the West line of a Tract of Land purchased by the said Proprietaries from the Six Nation Indians, and confirmed by their Deed bearing date the twenty third day of October, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Eight; and then with the Northern Bounds of that Tract, to the River SASQUAHANNA, and crossing the River SASQUAHANNA, to the Northern Boundary Line of another Tract of land purchased from the Indians, by Deed bearing date the twenty second day of August, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty Nine; and then with that Northern Boundary Line to the River DELAWARE, at the North side of the Mouth of a Creek called SECHAWACSEIN; then up the said River DELAWARE, on the West side thereof, to the Intersection of it by an East Line, to be drawn from OWEGY aforesaid, to the said River DELAWARE; and then, with that East line, to the BEGINNING, at OWEGY, aforesaid.

TOGETHER with all Lakes, Rivers, Creeks, Rivulets, Springs, Waters, Soils, Lands, Fields, Woods, Underwoods, Mountains, Hills, Vallies, Savannahs, Fens, Swamps, Isles, Inlets, Mines, Minerals, Quarries, Rights, Liberties, Privileges, Advantages, Hereditaments, and Appurtenances, whatsoever to the said Tract of Land and Country, belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and all the Right, Title, Interest, Claim and Demand whatsoever, of us, the said Sachems or Chiefs, and of the said Six Nations and their Confederates and dependant Tribes, and every of them.

AND, We, the said Sachems or Chiefs, for ourselves and the said Six Nations and their Confederates and dependant Tribes, and our and their children, heirs and descendants, for the further consideration of divers goods and merchandizes to

the value of Two Hundred Pounds, current Money of the Province of New York to us delivered, before the sealing and delivery of these presents, by the said Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, HAVE remised, released and forever quit-claimed, and by these presents DO remise, release and forever quit-claim, unto the said Proprietaries, Thomas Penn and Richard Penn, Esquires, (in their actual peaceable and quiet possession and siezin thereof, now being) and to their heirs, successors and assigns, forever:—

ALL THE RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST, PROPERTY, CLAIM and DEMAND, whatsoever of us and every of us, and the Six Nations aforesaid and their Confederates and dependant Tribes, and every of them, of, in, or to a Tract of Land, part of the Manor of CONNESTOGOE, in LANCASTER County, in the said Province of Pennsylvania, containing about Five Hundred Acres, be the same more or less, whereon OLD SOHAES and his Indians lately lived and dwelt, by the consent and permission of the said Proprietaries, who allotted the same to them for a place of residence.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said first mentioned large tract of land and country, and the said Five Hundred Acres, or thereabouts, last mentioned, with the appurtenances to them belonging, unto the said Proprietaries, Thomas and Richard Penn, Esquires, their heirs, successors and assigns;

To the only proper use and behoof of the said Thomas and Richard Penn, Esquires, their heirs, successors and assigns, forever, so that neither We, the said Sachems or Chiefs, nor any of us, nor the said Six Nations, nor their Confederates and dependant Tribes, or any of them, nor any of our or their heirs, children or descendants, shall claim, demand or challenge any right, title, interest or property of, in or to the said first mentioned large Tract of Land, or the said Five Hundred Acres last mentioned, but from the same shall be forever barred and excluded, and the same Tracts of Land shall be forever hereafter, peaceably and quietly possessed by the said Proprietaries, Thomas and Richard Penn, Esquires, their heirs, successors and assigns, without the let, hindrance, molestation, interruption or denial of us, the said Sachems or Chiefs, or the said Six Nations or their Confederates and dependant Tribes, or any of them or of our or their Heirs, Children or Descendants.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We, the said Sachems or Chiefs, for ourselves and the rest of the Six Nations, and their Confederates and dependant Tribes, have hereunto *sett* our hands.seals.

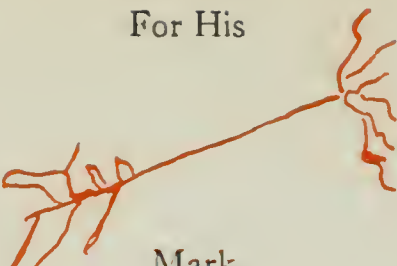




Dated at Fort Stanwix aforesaid, this fifth day of November, in the year One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty Eight, AND for the better understanding of this our Grant, a Map is hereunto annexed, whereon the Boundary Line so far as regards the Province of Pennsylvania, is described by a Red Line from the River DELAWARE, to that part of the River OHIO, where the Western Boundary of the said Province is supposed to cross it.

Sealed and Delivered (the words "Six" "whereof" being wrote on Razures & the Deed being first interpreted to the Indians) in the presence of us:

TEYANHASARE
alias Abraham
A Mohock

His

(L. S.)
Mark

Wm. Franklin, Gov. of New Jersey. Fre'd Smyth, Chief Justice of New Jersey.	ONOGHQUIESAC	For His		(L. S.)
	SENUGHSIS			
	An Oneida	Mark		
Thomas Walker, Commissioner of Virginia.	SEQUARISSERA	His		(L. S.)
	A Tuscarora	Mark		
Richard Peters and James Tilghman of the Council of Penna. Richard Peters, Jun'r.	CHENUGHIATA al's	His		(L. S.)
	An Onondago	Mark		
Turbutt Francis. E. Fitch. Joseph Chue.	TAGAAIA	His		(L. S.)
	A Cayuga	Mark		
John Walker. Sam'l Wharton. William Trent.	GOSTRAX	His		(L. S.)
	A Seneca	Mark		

PHILADELPHIA TO WIT:—

The thirty day of March, Anno Domini 1779, personally appeared before me, one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, James Tilghman and Richard Peters, Esq're, two of the within subscribing witnesses to the above Deed, and severally made oath on the Holy Evangel of Almighty God, that they were present at a public Indian Treaty, held at Fort Stanwix, in the Government of New York, the day of the Date of the same Deed by Sir William Johnson, ed, the King of Great Britain, his Agent,, Indians of the Six Nations. And then and there saw the several Indian Sachems, whose names are subscribed to the same Deed, sign and seal the same Deed and

Deliver the same to the uses herein mentioned. And that the names, James Tilghman and Richard Peters, Jun'r, subscribed to the same Deed are the proper hand writings of the deponents. AND that they saw the other subscribing witnesses attest the execution of the same Deed, by subscribing their names as witnesses thereto.

GIVEN under my hand and seal the day and year above written.

David Kennedy (L. S.)

PENNSYLVANIA TO WIT:

The 10th day of July, 1781, personally appeared before me, the Hon'ble Thomas M. Kean, Chief Justice of the State of Pennsylvania, William Trent, one of the subscribing witnesses to the above Deed, and made oath according to law, that he was present at the Treaty above mentioned, and then and there saw the several Indian Sachems whose names are subscribed to the same Deed, sign, seal and deliver the same as their act and deed, for the uses therein mentioned, and that the name William Trent, subscribed to the same Deed, is the proper hand writing of the deponent; and that he saw the other subscribing witnesses attest the execution of the same by subscribing *there* names as witnesses thereto.

GIVEN under my hand and seal the day and year abovesaid.

Tho. M. Kean (L. S.)

Recorded the 23rd day of July, Anno Domini 1781. John Hubley, Recorder.

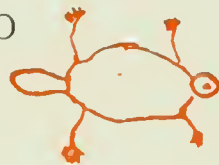
CONNAWAUSSHAY & OTHERS } WE, the subscribers, the surviving relations
 SURV. RELATIONS OF SOHAES } of SOHAES, within named, DO hereby
 TO } acknowledge to have this day received from
 JOHN PENN, ESQUIRE } the Honorable John Penn Esq'r, *THREE*
Hundred Dollars over and above the within
mentioned consideration of Two Hundred Pounds, in full satisfaction for all the
 claim and demand whatsoever which the Representatives of the said SOHAES
 may have to the within mentioned Five Hundred Acres of land, part of the CON-
 NESTOGOE MANNOR, where said SOHAES and his family lived by the per-
 mission of the proprietaries of Pennsylvania.

WITNESS our hands at *Philadelphia*, this twentieth day of May, in the year 1775.

WITNESSES present at signing and paying the money (this receipt being first interpreted to them.)

James Tilghman.
 Edw. Shippen, Jr.
 Wit'tm. Logan.
 And'w Allen.
 Joseph Shippen.

CONNAWAUSSHAY His A
 OF Cayuga
 CONNAUDASAGO Chief

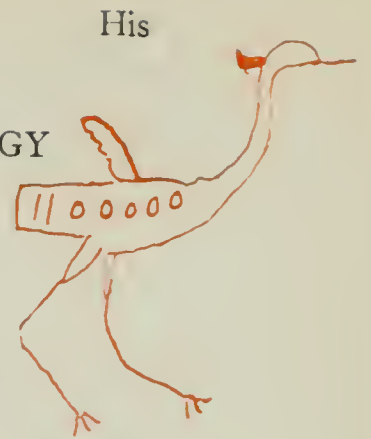


Mark

In behalf of himself and Ayenent-haw and Awewen-wandaw. . . . Isaac of the same Tribe present.

Isaac X Still,
Interpreter.

TOHONDO of CHEOQUAGY
In behalf of him-
self and Avendedry
and John Hudson and
Sowau.....or
Willey George of the
Cayuga Tribe.



His

Mark

CONNESTAWYENDOCKO
of
CONNAWDASAGO



His

Mark

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA TO WIT:

The tenth day of July, Anno Domini 1781, personally appeared before me, the Hon'ble Thomas M. Kean, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Edward Shippen, Jun'r, Esq'r, one of the subscribing witnesses to the release or instrument of writing indorsed on the back of the within written deed, and made oath according to Law, that he was present when the same was signed by and interpreted to the three several Indians who signed the same, as well on their own account as on behalf of other Indians; and saw the money therein mentioned paid to them.

That the name of Edw. Shippen, Jr., subscribed as a Witness thereto, was of the proper handwriting of the deponent, and that he saw the other subscribing witnesses write their names, as witnesses to the execution thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Tho. M. Kean

(L. S.)

Recorded the 23rd day of July, A. D. 1781.

John Hubley, Recorder



DESCRIPTION OF AN EARLY ENGLISH ORDINARY Yr. 1758

*Submitted by D. L. Corbitt, Clerk, Office of the Secretary
N. C. Historical Commission, Raleigh, North Carolina*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 4

THE laws of North Carolina in the eighteenth century controlling the operation of Ordinaries or Inns were quite different from the laws of the present time. A person wishing to operate an ordinary had to be a resident of the county and he had to make application to the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to secure a license whereby he was permitted to open his inn to the public. The following is an example of such a petition:

To the Worshipful Justices of Prequimans County now Sitting. The Petition of John Collines Humbly Sheweth That your Petitioner is Desirous to keep an Ordinary at his now Dwelling house in the County aforesaid. Your Petitioner therefore Humbly prays your worships to grant him a License for that purpose as your, petitioner is ready to Comply with the Law in that Case made & Provided & your Petitioner as in duty bound Shall Pray &c

July Court 1758

(Signed) John Collins¹

¹Perquimons County Court Papers, North Carolina Historical Commission

After the petitioner had applied to the Court, and had been considered by the Justices of the Peace to be a good citizen, reliable and capable of providing for the comforts of the travellers, a license was issued usually for one year. The following is a copy of a license:

State of North Carolina Cabarrus County

Whereas (John Doe) has this Day obtained an Order for a Licence to Keep a Tavern at his now Dwelling House in this County and has given Bond with Sufficient Security for complying with the Direction of the Act of Assembly and for other purposes.

These are therefore to Licence, authorize and empower you to Keep and ordinary at your Dwelling house & you in every respect observing and complying with the Directions of the aforesaid Act. this Licence to continue and be in force one year, from the Date of these presents and no longer given under my hand at Office the (21) Day of (Jan.) Anno Domini 179(4) (Signed) John Simianerlle² (Clerk)

²Miscellaneous Court Papers, North Carolina Historical Commission

But a license had to be secured by bond, usually in the sum of £200, before legal process was completed, and applicant fully authorized to operate his ordinary. Following is a copy of regular bond:

State of North Carolina

Know all men by these presents that we (Archibald) Armstrong and (John Doe) are held and firmly bound unto his Excelency the Governor & Commander in Chief of the State aforesaid in the Sum of one hundred pounds Current Money to be paid to the Said Governor of his Successors for the time being, to the which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves our heirs, Executors and Administrators jointly and Severally firmly by these presents. Scaled with our Seals and dated this 21 Day of January A^o. D. 1794.

The Condition of the above obligation is Such that Whereas the above bound Archibald Armstrong hath obtained a Licence to Keep an Ordinary at his own house in the County of Cabarrus if therefore the Said Archibald Armstrong doth constantly find and provide in his said ordinary good wholesome and cleanly lodging and Diet for Travellers, and Stabling, fodder, hay, corn, oats or pasturage as the Season shall require, for their horses for and during the term of one year or to the Court after said year from 21st of January 1794 and shall not suffer or permit any unLawful gaming in his house nor on the Sabath Day Suffer any person to tipple or drink any more than is necessary; then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed Sealed & delivered (Archibald Armstrong) (Seal)³
in the presence of (John Doe) (Seal)

³Miscellaneous Court Papers, North Carolina Historical Commission

The ordinary or inn usually the proprietor's dwelling house, did not afford many conveniences. There was not a great variety of food, but almost invariably some variety of whiskey and brandy.

The courts not only issued licenses for operating the ordinary, but also passed laws regulating prices to be charged, often very high for the accommodations afforded. Following is an example:

Ordered the tavern rates are as follows, viz. For a hot dinner of good provisions, twelve dollars and a half. Breakfast, of tea or coffee, bread and butter six dollars. Supper of meat eight dollars, if coffee or tea six dollars, for a gill of good West India rum ten dollars, country brandy, whiskey and toffy five dollars per gill, for lodging and night two dollars, for storage for horses for twenty-four hours, four dollars, corn, twelve shillings per quart, fodder or hay sufficient for a bait for a horse twenty-four shillings.⁴

⁴Bertie County Court Minutes, May Term, 1780,
North Carolina Historical Commission



A SOLDIER'S LETTER HOME

Yr. 1863

*Submitted by J. P. Ballenger, Clerk, Probate Court
Greenville County, Greenville, North Carolina*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 4

WAR-TIME letters written home by American soldiers in any war always are full of heart thrills and interest. Drama and tragedy of the intensest kind stalk continuously at the side of a soldier. Particularly was this true during the Civil War, when, in many instances, brothers were fighting against brothers, and lifelong friends were ramming bayonets through one another's hearts.

Which brings us to a presentation of one of the most striking and unusual letters written home by a Confederate soldier. The soldier in question was Captain David Ballenger, father of the author of this contribution, and was written to the former's brother. This particular letter has some interesting history about Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, revealing historical facts which Mr. J. P. Ballenger says he has never read elsewhere.

The letter reads as follows:

Camp Santee, Caroline County, Va.
2nd Army Corps, A. N. V. May 19th, 1863.

My Dear brother:

I received your very kind letter the 18th inst., bearing date May the 12th, I believe. I was glad to hear from you all again, especially so to hear that you were all well. I have not anything interesting to write to you at the present, more than I am alive and able to write to you this beautiful morning.

I have been in two tremendous battles since last writing to you. They were fought on the 2nd and 3d days of this month, as you have doubtless heard of before now. They were fought at a place called Chancellorsville, near Wilderness Church house, on the Rappahannock River.

The battle fought on the third day was one long to be remembered by those who survived that bloody scene. It surpassed any struggle that ever I have been in and I have been in 4 engagements besides some skirmishes. The time would fail me to undertake to give you anything like a correct account of the battles, but suffice for me to say that it was as severe a contest as has marked the pages of the history of this war. The news papers will give you a more full account of the fight than I can, especially on this scrap of paper.

About the first of next month you may look for it again, but the Army of Northern Virginia and especially the 2nd Army Corps mourns the loss of Lt. Gen. T. J. Jackson, who was wounded on the 3d day of May, or on the night of the 2nd day of May. He was wounded by one of our own Regiment—the 38th N. C. as I have been informed. He died on the 10th day of May, 1863. The Nation may truly mourn the loss of so great a man. I attended his funeral last Sunday. It was preached by Rev. Mr. Hodge (or Hoge, name not clear in original), from Richmond, Va.

I do not think that the Confederacy afforded many such men as Gen. T. J. Jackson. I have seen him several times, and he was one among the smartest looking men that I ever saw. He looked to be a man near my height and about my age. He was a very graceful looking man indeed, and from what I can learn he was one of the most accomplished of men.

Permit me to state what Gen. R. E. Lee said when he heard that Gen. Jackson was wounded. He (Lee) hastily wrote a short note and sent it to Jackson, and he said in his note to Jackson that it would have been better for the Nation for himself to have been wounded than for Gen. Jackson to have been wounded. Gen. Jackson read the note that Gen. Lee sent him, and his reply was, "better had ten Jacksons die than one Lee." I think it surpasses any compliments that were ever passed between two great men. Lee is Commander in Chief of the Army of Northern Virginia, and I think that God has made him one of the greatest generals in the World. Gen. Jackson was heard to say that he would serve under any one, but under Gen. Lee he would serve blind-folded. Gen. Jackson had the greatest confidence in Gen. Lee.

It is said that after Gen. Jackson was wounded that he was borne out of the battle field by one of his aides, and during his illness he swooned away under his sufferings, and after he came to himself, his aide asked him how he felt. He answered and said, "Very pleasant, very pleasant,—tell the infantry to move forward to the front". They supposed that he thought himself engaged in a battle.

I think that his (Jackson's) whole life was filled up in trying to defend his Country. I take him to have been one of the most devoted men to religion that I ever knew. In life he was heard to say that "man's chief end was to glorify God in this life".

I sincerely hope and trust in an over-ruling Providence to live to see you again, that I may be able to tell you more than I shall ever be able to write.

I remain

Your brother,

(Signed) David Ballenger



THE REGISTER OF THE ALABAMA TERRITORY

Yr. 1818

*Submitted by Peter A. Brannon, Acting Director
Dept. Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 5

WHEN Congress passed the admission Act making Mississippi Territory one of the American States, it fixed the boundary line on the east to form a new territory called Alabama. St. Stephens was selected as the capital, and the secretary, Henry Hitchcock, found a record book in which to enter the appointments and commissions of those officials serving this new political subdivision. He used a small leather bound blank book and entered first under date of February 9, 1818, the name of John Hanes, Adjutant General, Jack F. Ross, Treasurer, and Samuel Pickens, Auditor of Public Accounts.

Alabama was a territory for a shorter period than any of the present American states, so when two years hence she too was admitted the new secretary honored the event by placing the Territorial Register on the shelf. It went with the state archives to Cahaba, thence on to Tuscaloosa, and reposed at Montgomery until the Capitol was destroyed by fire on December 14, 1849. When the Capitol was discovered on fire a servant in the Secretary of State's office, his personal slave, carried from the burning building this register and the state seal, thus saving it for future generations.

Through subsequent years the secretaries had not for it a sentimental attachment and it was requisitioned to serve as a door stop. For many years, until March, 1901, it was used daily to keep the door ajar, when the Alabama Department of Archives and History came into being. Dr. Thomas M. Owen, through whose conception this Department had been thought out, revered this old volume and, seeing it thus desecrated, furnished a block of stone to serve in its place. He put it with other records in the vaults and today this volume is Number One of the series of Executive Registers of Alabama.



LINCOLN WAS DEFENDANT IN A LAW-SUIT Yr. 1861

*Submitted by Mora B. Fariss, Clerk and Master
Maury Chancery Court, Columbia, Tennessee*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 5

IT wasn't often, possibly in this instance only, that Abraham Lincoln was defendant in a lawsuit during his hectic days in the White House. Mora B. Fariss unearths an original document reposing in the office of the Clerk and Master of Maury Chancery Court, Columbia, Tennessee, a facsimile reproduction of which is not only extremely interesting but authentic and completely self-explanatory. It shows a most unusual development in the life of Old Abe.

It follows:

Elias Rambo,

—vs—

—Order of Publication—

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.

It appearing to me from complainant's bill, filed in this cause, that Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, one of the defendants, is a non-resident of the State of Tennessee so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon him.

It is therefore ordered by me that publication be made in the Maury Press, a newspaper published in the town of Columbia, Tenn., for thirty days, the last publication to be at least five days before the next setting of the next term of the Chancery Court to be holden at the Court House in the town of Columbia, County of Maury, and in the State of Tennessee, on the third Monday in September next requiring the said Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States to appear and plead, answer or demur to complainants bill or the same will be taken for confessed as to him, and set for hearing exparte.

July 18th, 1861.

(Signed) A. M. Wingfield, C & M.



FAMOUS OLD "LOST" RECORD BOOK IS FOUND Yr. 1791

*Submitted by Otto Stoll, Register of Deeds
Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 6

BEFORE Cadillac founded Detroit in 1701, the only inhabitants along the River Detroit were the Indians. For 125 years following that event, red and white men lived in close proximity where now stands the Fourth City of the United States.

The French regime lasted until 1760, when the British obtained control and exercised dominion until 1796. Some attempt was made to record property dealings, these records being embodied in the Four books of Colonial Records now existing; namely, Books A, B, C and D.

Book D is the supposed lost record which has turned up in the archives of the Canadian Government at Ottawa. Books A, B and C are now parts of the writer's records. They are written partly in Colonial French, partly in English, and contain numerous interesting documents, including the original land grants of the Indian nations.

Prior to 1796, the British ordered the records at Detroit sent to Quebec—then the seat of power,—for examination of grants made by the Indians of land, then part of the Indian Territory. It was held that these grants were illegal. Book D was the record kept by Guillaume Monforton, after Books A, B and C were taken to Quebec. Monforton had no official endorsement, but kept the book for the convenience of property holders in the Fort of Detroit.

When he left Detroit before General "Mad Anthony" Wayne took possession for the Americans, he took Book D with him, and it was later obtained by Charles Labadie, Windsor, Ontario, an editor. The latter gave his private collection of historical papers to the Canadian Government, including Book D. Books A, B and C were returned to Detroit by the British, at the request of Congress.

The first recorder in Wayne County was the notorious Philip Dejean, a Frenchman from Montreal. He turned up in Detroit in 1768. The territory of which Detroit formed the trading center then stretched 500 miles on all sides. Dejean's records show some interesting transfers of property. One was for a tract of land seven miles in width and seven miles in depth, on the south side of Detroit, opposite the island known as Isle Aux Bois Blanc (now a summer resort); granted to Lieutenant Jacob Schieffelin, Secretary of the District of Detroit, by the Chippewa nation, together with "meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, trees, underwoods, commons, waters, royalties, liberties," etc. It was signed by the Chiefs of the nation, whose marks included one fox, three sturgeons, one bear and one wolf.

Another record shows the sale of Esther, a slave of Captain Henry Bird, who led a British-Indian invasion of Kentucky in 1780. It follows:

L'Assomption D:
Hesse 29th June, 1791
Detroit, August 14th, 1784

I, Henry Bird, do declare that the Wench Esther became my property in consequence of an article of Capitulation of Martin's Fort, whereby the Inhabitants and Defenders agreed to deliver up their Blacks, arms and movables to the Indians as their property, on condition that their persons should be safely conducted to Detroit, which articles was punctually complied with and fulfilled by the Captors, the said Esther became my Property by consent and permission of the Indian Chiefs.

(Signed) H. Bird, Captain

Present and witness to the Capitulation
(Signed) A. McKee, D. A. I. affairs.

I do hereby make Over and give away my right and Property in the said Wench and her male Child to William Lee in consideration of his having cleared for me sixteen Acres of Land.

(Signed) H. Bird, Captain

It is interesting to note that William Lee was a free negro and to speculate as to his motive in purchasing Esther.

Book D, which the writer is attempting to have restored to Detroit, received its first entry March 12, 1791. Among its records is one of the last of the famous Indian grants. It is a 999-year lease from the Ottawas and Chippewas to one Thomas McKee, of the island known as Pelee (now Canadian Territory). The consideration named was three bushels of Indian corn, to be picked as to quality by the Indians and delivered annually during the term of the lease, which was dated May 1, 1788. The famous Pontiac, chief of the Ottawas, executed several grants of land to whites for whom he had a friendship. Pontiac's grants were all free gifts.

The contents of these four books form an interesting sidelight on the perilous Colonial days when the white man was establishing his civil government in the domain once trod only by the foot of the red man.



WOLF! WOLF!! WOLF!!!

Yr. 1810

*Submitted by W. J. Bower, Deputy Recorder
Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, Ohio*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 6

IN the County of Cuyahoga, Ohio, the Court House at Cleveland contains more than three thousand volumes of records of deeds and mortgages written on Weston's paper.

And in this populous county there was being paid a bounty for wolf scalps only 116 years ago.

The first "Order Book" of Cuyahoga County shows the following entries:

Order No. 48—Aug. 13, 1810—To John Delgarn for Wolf Scalps.....	\$2.00
Order No. 53—Sept. 4, 1810—To Henry Edwards for Wolf Scalps.....	1.00
Order No. 57—Nov. 6, 1810—To Abner Cochran for Wolf Scalps.....	1.00

In those early days there was no Court House and the same order book shows a payment to Lorenzo Carter, who had the first saloon in the county, for the use of his saloon as a Court Room.

Order No. 55—Sept. 4, 1810—To Lorenzo Carter for services as Commissioner and Court Room.....	\$7.50.
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NATURE LOVER PROVIDES FOR CARE OF PETS Yr. 1922

*Submitted by Miss Leeta Owen, Deputy Clerk
Portage County, Ohio*

AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

EVEN in these turbulent days when the mad pursuit of dollars and relentless desire for self-expression too often overshadows the finer qualities of mankind, once in a while one finds a simple, gentle-minded soul whose acts set an example worth more than wealth. Following is a copy of the will of an old man who was apparently more concerned with the welfare of his dog and bird friends than with that of his relations.

W I L L

I, D. A. Karr, County of Portage, State of Ohio.

In *Reasonably good helth*, Publish this my last Will and others *Destroyed*.

After I am cremated ashes *Returned to Earth*, *funneral Expences PD*. Debts I never have *own*. Turn everything in to money.

Thois that looks after me in *Sickness or Death* to be well paid.

I *leve* to my *Bro.* now of Cleveland, O. J. U. Karr the only living *Bro.* Three fourth & to my only *Living Sister*, Ida one fourth of my estate.

Any *Body* that is a lover of a Dog to get the Dog and \$10, to be treated as a Dog should be.

\$50 to be left to my nearest *nabors* of \$5.00 each for Birds & Protection of the Songsters, (Boxes).

My *Bro.* John Karr to be administrator and to give to my *nieaces* a few Dollars each if he wants to.

(Signed) D. A. Karr,
Garrettsville, O.
Dec. 11th, 1922.

Witnesses R. P. Naice.

Published and declared by the above named D. A. Karr as and for his last will and testament who did acknowledge "D. A. Karr" at the end thereof to be his signature, in the presence of us and in the presence of each other, and at his request we have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Dr. P. G. Flothow	resides at	Lakeside Hospital
F. M. Quinlan	resides at	Lakeside Hospital



A WILL WRITTEN ON CHINA SILK

Yr. 1925

*Submitted by Myrtle Tanner Blacklidge, Superintendent
Photo-Folio Department, Cook County
Recorder's Office, Chicago, Illinois*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 7

AN exceedingly interesting document was filed August 10th, 1925, in the Office of the Probate Court Clerk of Cook County, Illinois. The ever-alert Myrtle Tanner Blacklidge discovered this document (a will), which was written on China silk in the Chinese language and then translated into English, both original and copy being placed on record.

Miss Blacklidge has been supervisor of the Photostat Department of the County Recorder's Office of Cook County, Illinois, since this department was installed, and has seen many interesting and unusual documents placed on record. She states, however, that the following is the most interesting she has ever seen. The fact that the will was written on silk was what caught her attention originally. She says that it is a very clear record and one that the casual observer naturally will pause over long enough to examine carefully.

Miss Blacklidge submitted the copies on Byron Weston Co. Linen Record Photostat Paper. The following is a copy of the English translation:

I, DON BIG YEE, being sick in the United States of America, and knowing that cure for me is impossible, I hereby appoint my old friend Mr. Toy Hong and my nephew, Mr. Chan Tak Hong to care and to manage all my Estate in the United States and to turn over the whole property to my legal wife, Mrs. Don Marks, whom I hereby name as my sole legal heir.

I hope that she will be as industrious, economical, faithful and loyal as she can be; she should know that building up a fortune is not an easy task, and to keep it in tact is not easy.

Mr. Toy Hong and my nephew, Mr. Chan Tak Hong are my Trustees and my heir shall always obey the instructions of my Trustee then I will die with a smile.

I hereby instruct my Trustees that after my death my Estate shall be managed as follows:

Mr. Toy Hong is appointed as Administrator of my Estate in the United States and my Estate shall be under his management, and he will forward all the earnings to my legal wife, Mrs. Don Marks. He shall have the power to sell at any time any part or all of my Estate; pay all debts, and to pay the net proceeds derived from my Estate to my legal wife, Mrs. Don Marks, but all sales of property belonging to me at the time of my death must be made with the approval of my nephew, Mr. Chan Tak Hong.

My estate consists of the following among other items:

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Stock in the Mandarin Inn, valued at.....	\$5000.00
Stock in the Canton Tea Garden, valued at.....	2000.00
Stock or interest in Cocanut Grove, valued at.....	5000.00
Stock or interest in Wilson Village, valued at.....	1750.00
Stock in Joy Yen Lo, valued at.....	3000.00
Stock in King Yen Lo, Detroit, Mich. valued at.	6000.00

DATED this Sixth day of May, A. D. 1925.

DON BIG YEE, (SEAL)

Witnesses to signature:

- Chan Tak Hong (1)
- Swen Weh Fong (2)

AFFIDAVIT

CHAN FUNG CHEE being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that he was born, resided and educated in China until he reached the age of eighteen; that he studied the Chinese language and English language at High School and Colleges in the United States for more than five years; that he is familiar with both the English and Chinese language and can read and write the languages proficiently and can translate the Chinese language into the English language accurately and correctly, and has engaged in the profession of translating Chinese language into the English language and the English into the Chinese for more than five years.

Affiant further says that the foregoing is a true, accurate and correct translation from the Chinese language into the English language of the last will and testament of Don Big Yee deceased, filed for probate in the Probate Court of Cook County.

Further affiant sayeth not.

(Signed) Chan Fung Chee

(SEAL) SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to
before me this 20th day of
October, A. D. 1925.

Margaret B. Daley
Notary Public

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GROUND MADE HISTORIC BY BLACK HAWK

Yr. 1814

*Submitted by Sam Ryerson, Recorder of Deeds
Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 7

MR. RYERSON dug into his old records and uncovered a unique document describing the transfer of a considerable portion of land, a party to which was the famous historical character, Chief Black Hawk. Mr. Ryerson states that this document, which you will find reproduced on this and the following pages, discusses land—Campbell's Island, which is about six miles east of Rock Island, Illinois, in the Mississippi River. It was so named because it was on this island that a tremendously important battle with the Indians was fought, under the white leadership of Lieutenant Campbell.

In submitting this document Mr. Ryerson says that of the many volumes in his office there are but two made in the last twenty-five years that are not Byron Weston Linen Record. He amplifies this statement by saying that no record used by him during his twenty-seven years as Rock Island County Recorder has been on any other than Byron Weston Co. Linen Record. The interesting document in question follows:

This Indenture, made this Twelfth day of December A. D. 1905 between Moline, East Moline and Watertown Railway Company, of the first part and William A. Meese of the second parts.

Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the covenants and agreements of the party of the second part hereinafter mentioned has demised and leased to the party of the second part a certain bungalow upon Campbell's Island in the County of Rock Island and State of Illinois, situate upon the premises known and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the trail of Lieut. Campbell taken when pursued by one B. Hawk on the 19th day of July 1814, thence double on said trail and run back to the point of intersection with the path of said B. Hawk and his warriors after their capture of a barrel of fire water, on the date aforesaid, thence zig-zag along said path in the manner of the aforesaid B. Hawk and band, to a point where a flock of blue jays sat near a sycamore tree, thence follow the flight of said Hawk to the point where, foreseeing that his biography would be written by said party of the second part, he buried the hatchet and gave up the ghost, reference being had for greater uncertainty to the history of said occurrences as written by said party of the second part.

To have and to hold, the above described premises, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part his heirs, executors, administrators or successors and assigns from and including the 12th day of December A. D. 1905, for, during and until the 12th day of December A. D. 1915.

And the said party of the second part, in consideration of the leasing of the premises aforesaid, does covenant and agree with the said party of the first part, its successors and assigns, that he has received said demised premises in good order and condition, and that at the expiration of the time in this lease mentioned or sooner determination thereof by forfeiture or otherwise, he will yield up the said premises to the said party of the first part, in as good condition as when the same were entered upon by the said party of the second part; loss by fire inevitable accident or ordinary wear excepted; and also that he will keep the said premises in good repair during the lease at his own expense, and will restore the premises to the party of the first part with glass of like quality in all the windows thereof, in as good condition as the same now are.

It is further agreed by the said party of the second part, that neither he nor his representatives, will underlet said premises, or any part thereof, or assign this lease without the written assent of the said party of the first part had and obtained thereto.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties aforesaid:

Moline, East Moline & Watertown Railway
Company.

By C. H. Deere, Pres.

Wm. A. Meese.



DIVORCE WAS HELL THEN AS NOW

Yr. 1869

Submitted by Morris Elder, Treasurer Montgomery County, Mt. Ida, Arkansas

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 8

DIVORCE, like death, always is a tragedy. But, though tragedy may stalk "like a monster, hideous of mien," it may, withal, be accompanied by convulsing humor of an interesting nature.

The paper hereinafter reproduced is real and a divorce was granted upon it, as attested by Mr. Elder. It follows:

Chauncey S. Odell, Complainant.

In the Montgomery County
Circuit Court In Chancery
Sitting March term A. D. 1869

vs.

Sarah Jane Odell, defendant.

To The Hon. E. J. Searl, Judge of the Circuit Court:

In and For the County of Montgomery, State of Ark:

Your Orator Chauncey S. Odell would most respectfully represent to your honor that during the year A. D. 1863, your Orator became deeply enamored and fell desperately in love, and your orator not being as timorous or bashful as Shakespeare's famous Adonis, and disregarding the Stolid and logical advice of Old Weller to his son Sam, your Orator got a taste of love with all its sweets, and like Oliver Twist, called Loud and most vociferously for more until the 12th. day July 1863 when your orator intermarried with one Sarah Jane Odell.

Your orator soon discovered the truthfulness of Shakespeare's assertion that "Love is blind and Lover's cannot see" and also that there was a vast difference between Sarah Janes affections as a lover and as a wife. As a lover she was all smiles and affection. As a wife crabid and cross and as your orator has not the adroitness of Petricia or the impudence of Jacob Fallstaff could not prevail upon the aforementioned Sarah Jane to live as a Lover and throw smiles and sweet glances, instead of bricks and broom sticks at your most humble orator.

And the aforesaid Sarah Jane instead of offering wifelike affections to your orator offered such indignities to your orator as to render his life intolerable and existence a curse; so much so that it was either remain with the aforesaid Sarah Jane, and pine away like the Forest leaf in autumn or separate and recuperate and regain lost spirits; And your orator fully believing in the spirit of recuperation in the abstract separated, thereby choosing the least of two evils and your orator now comes before you as a specimen of a hen pecked husband and prays your honor to dissolve and set aside the aforementioned bonds of matrimony and marriage contract; Your orator would further represent that he has been a resident of this State for 5 years etc.

(Signed) Chauncey S. Odell by

(Signed) Chas. J. Paschall.

DEED INVOLVES THREE FAMOUS CHARACTERS Yr. 1800

*Submitted by James F. Litton, Deputy County Clerk
Roane County, Tennessee*

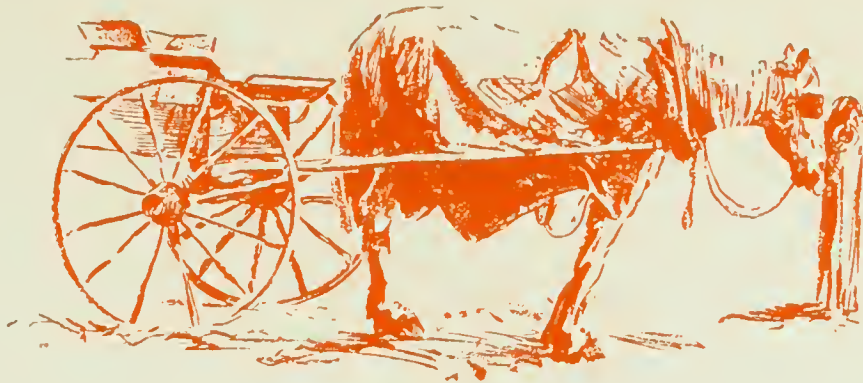
AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

THREE of the most prominent characters in American History are connected with the conveyance of a little 100-acre tract of land back in the year 1800. Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, was the purchaser, Hugh Lawson White, one of the great men of that time, was the witness to the deed, and Andrew Jackson (Old Hickory), was the Notary Public. Following is a copy of this interesting instrument:

A deed of conveyance from
Annius McCoy
to
Sam'l Houston
100 acres of land on Whites creek

THIS INDENTURE, made the thirteenth day of Dec. in the year One thousand eight hundred between Annias McCoy, of the County of Roane State of Tennessee of the one part and Samuel Houston, of the County of Rockbridge in the State of Verginia of the other part. WITNESSETH; that the said Annias McCoy for and in consideration of the sum of fifty dollars to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath and by these presants doth grant, bargain, sell, assign, endorse and confirm unto the said Samuel Houston his heirs and assigns forever a certain tract or parcel of land containing one hundred acres lying and being in the State of Tennessee, in Powells Valley, Begining at a Stake the second corner of a twelve hundred acre tract of land conveyed by said McCoy to James Callison and which corner is two hundred feet from a Dogwood and Black oak on the West side of Whites creek below the mouth of Camp creek which Black oak and Dogwood are called for in a deed of conveyance for three hundred acres of land from Stokley Donaldson to said McCoy, thence west one hundred twenty six and a half poles to a stake, thence North forty five degrees East one hundred and twenty six and a half poles to a stake, thence a direct line to the beginning. With all and singular the woods, waters, water courses, profits, commodities, heraditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said tract of land belonging or appertaining and the reversion and reversions, remainder, remainders, rents, and issues thereof and all the estate, right, title and interest, property, claim and demand of him the said Annias McCoy his heirs and assigns forever of and to the same and every part and parcel thereof whatever whether in law or equity To have and to hold the said one hundred acres of land with the appurtenances unto the said Samuel Houston his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful title, claim and demand of all and every person or person whatsoever will warren and forever defend these presents. In witness whereof the said Annias McCoy hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written.

(Signed) Annias McCoy, seal.



INTERESTING ANECDOTES DE LUXE

Yr. (Undated)

*Submitted by J. M. Marshall, Treasurer
Upshur County, Gilmer, Texas*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 8

No. 1

WHEN President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed four million slaves and it was proclaimed through the world, an old negro in Virginia heard that there were some provisions made in the Constitution for the colored man. He got his basket and went over to Washington City to see the president. He called at the White House and President Lincoln came out and the old ex-slave said, "Am you Mr. Lincum, de president of dese United States?" "Yes," replied Mr. Lincoln, "my colored friend; I have the honor of being president of this great but torn nation. What can I do for you?" "Well, Sar, I hears dar am some provision in de constitution for de poor colored man. I has a sick wife and 13 raged chilerns and I's brought my basket over to get my part of dem visions, Sar."

No. 2—In the early days of this little city, Gilmer. When Gilmer was a good deal smaller than it is now, when the little village was first incorporated, the city fathers had an ordinance which prohibited any one from riding horseback on the sidewalks of the city. A gentleman, who lived in the country near town, had a very long-horned Texas steer he had trained to the saddle. The steer's horns were 6 ft. from tip to tip. So this gentleman saddled up his steer and rode to town. He took a few drinks of home brew (corn whiskey) and remounted his steer, Old Lamb by name, rode up and down the sidewalks of the little town, and none would dare molest or make afraid.

No. 3—During the time the city was incorporated, they had no stock law, and the cows and hogs ran at large (This was some 70 years ago). One hog gave up the ghost and died on the public square. And, while this dead hog was still lying on the street, this same gentleman of the steer fame mentioned in No. 2, saddled up his bald-faced pony and rode to town. This gentleman discovered the dead hog on the public square, and he went to some of the city officials and asked them what they would pay him to take the dead hog outside of the city limits. They told him that they would pay him \$2.50. So the gentleman got a rope and tied it around the hog's neck; tied the rope to his pony's tail, dragged the hog outside the city, returned and demanded his pay. The authorities refused to pay him, so he mounted his pony and rode out to where he had left the dead hog, tied his rope around the dead hog's neck, tied the rope to his pony's tail and dragged the dead hog back into the city, leaving it at the same place from whence he had taken him.

No. 4—*A Tale of the Old Slavery Days.* There was an old negro man, by the name of Uncle Eaf, who was a very pious man. So Uncle Eaf concluded that he was about ready to go to Heaven. One night Uncle Eaf's young master went fox hunting with his horn and dogs. On his return from the hunt he passed Uncle Eaf's shack and heard him praying thusly: "Oh, Lord, Uncle Eaf is now ready to go home to Heaven. Oh, Lord, send the Angel Gabriel and let him toot his horn—I am now ready to go." At this time his young master struck the door with his horn and gave a loud blast upon it. Old Uncle Eaf said, "Who's dat?" The young master replied, changing his voice to a solemn tone, "This is the angel Gabriel, who has come after Uncle Eaf to take him home to Heaven." Uncle Eaf said, "Mr. Angel Gabriel, dat nigger don't live here any more. He done moved."

No. 5—*A Story About Pat, the Irishman.* Pat was a newcomer to the United States from old Ireland, and the first job he got after his arrival was at a saw mill, which was all new stuff for Pat. Pat had been working only a few days when one morning the foreman said to Pat, "Pat, get me a cant hook quick." Now Pat didn't know what a cant hook was, but, being quick-witted, he saw, as he passed a little pasture on his way to work that morning, a muley cow grazing. So he rushed out from the mill shed and grabbed a piece of rope, rushed down to the little pasture and directly he came back leading the muley cow. The foreman saw him and said, "Pat, what in the devil are you bringing that cow up here for?" Pat replied, "Faith, she can't hook at all, she's got no horns."

No. 6—This incident actually occurred in this county about two years ago. One Sunday, in the Spring of 1924, the colored people in a community in the northern part of this, Upshur County met for an all-day meeting with dinner on the grounds. About 11:30 when the darkies were getting ready to spread the dinner under the shade of the trees a terrible electric storm burst upon them. The rain poured, the thunder roared, and the lightning flashed. A horse and a mule were killed just outside of the church house. The darkies many of them were on their knees praying. One negro's voice was heard above the roar of the thunder and the downpour of rain. One very pious old colored lady thought that she recognized the voice of the negro who was praying so loud. She cried out, "Who's dat nigger praying so loud over dar?" Some one answered, "Dat's Eddie Lawton." She said, "Lord bless my soul. Dat's de meanest, no-'count nigger in all dis county. If you don't stop dat black rascal de Lord will kill us all—he done killed one horse and one mule already."

No. 7—Once there was a little Hebrew in the gents' furnishing goods business. He could neither read nor write, but he had an eye for business. The way he marked his goods: he took a tag and whatever price he wanted to sell an article for he took his pen and made as many dots on the tag as he wanted to get in dollars for the article. One afternoon he had an occasion to be absent from the store. He had a boy named Jake. He said to the boy, "Now, Jakey, I'll have to leave de store dis afternoon and I want you to stay in de store and sell all de goods you can. Listen, Jakey, dese goods have a little tag on dem and as many dollars as I want for the goods you will see dese little dots—a dollar for every dot. Do you understand, Jakey?"

So, when he returned that evening, he said, "Oh, Jakey, did you sell any goods today?" Jake replied, "Yes, daddy, I sold one suit." "Oh, Jakey, what did you get for it. Let me see the little tag." Jake replied, "I got \$14.00, Dad." "Oh, Jakey, let me see de tag." The father had made 10 dots on the tag, but the flies had come along and made 4 more. The old man saw where he had gained \$4.00 by the action of the flies, and he said, "Oh, Jakey, God bless de little flies, don't you never kill another one as long as you live," and he opened wide the screen door and let all the flies in.



AN ILLUMINATING INCIDENT

Yr. (Undated)

*Submitted by S. J. Gottneid, Deputy Clerk
Douglas County, Omaha, Nebraska*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 9

ALL is not gold that glitters, nor is all that is "light" illuminating. This is proved by the facts revealed in the facsimile reproduction of a divorce petition on record in Douglas County, Nebraska.

It follows:

District Court, Douglas County, Nebraska, Docket 161, No. 131, Wick vs. Wick. Petition for divorce. Plaintiff's petition was denied and defendant granted decree of absolute divorce on cross-petition, and maiden name of *Lamp* was restored.

*Submitted by Mary M. E. Shedd, Assistant Town Clerk
Preston, Connecticut*

AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

BACK in pre-revolutionary days, when the oppression of the Mother Country was bearing very heavily on the independent spirit of the colonists, town meetings were hot affairs, with bitter accusations and harsh denunciations flying back and forth.

The following is a particularly interesting sketch:

In the first records of Town Meetings in Preston, Connecticut., Book 1-2-3, pages 300-302, is the record of a Town Meeting held July 11, 1774. Many votes were passed showing clearly the spirit of the people in this little country town in those troubled times. First, two men were chosen as a Committee to go to New London "to appoint Deputies to represent this Colony at a proposed Congress somewhere upon this Continent." "The alarming and distressed situation of this country" as the result of taxation without representation was discussed and opinion was voted "that we as well as all other corporations in America are bound in duty to God, to our Country and to our children to discuss, declare and record our sentiments that future generations may know the opinion of us, their forefathers, concerning the public transactions of this most melancholy period of time." Loyalty to King George was solemnly declared and the ardent wish expressed that he "would be advised by honest and conscientious counsellors, listen to the humble petitions of his people and govern upon the same plan and with the same moderation and paternal tenderness as did his royal grandfather George the Second, whose memory is glorious and will always be revered by America." This is followed by the charge that the "cruel and barbarous measures used by the Parliament of England were partly in consequence of false insinuations from our enemies who dwell among us."

Names of one hundred and fifty-four men are given, mostly of Boston, who are accused of writing letters, making addresses and using their influence against the Colonies. Thomas Hutcheson is called "a Tyrant of Tyrants who has been eminently instrumental in Betraying this Country and ruining both the present and all future ages of America." "Voted that to prevent the propagating of unwholesome and unruly sentiments among the people"—all those whose names were given—"be desired forever hereafter to avoid entering this town." "Any traders or others in this town who should presume to purchase goods of or hold commerce with any of those merchants"—on the list of names—"or who should bring in or buy or sell India Tea in any manner in this town untill the Duty be taken off shall incur the displeasure of this town and their names be recorded in the Town Book as enemies to the common cause."



A TAX COLLECTION SONG

Yr. (Undated)

*Submitted by George M. Wagner, Treasurer
Frontier County, Stockville, Nebraska*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 9

RESOURCEFULNESS is the mark of a genius, be his activity that of building, selling, writing, composing music, or collecting past-due taxes.

“If you can’t get money coming to you by mail, try it in person” was the slogan of this enterprising tax collector.

“If that doesn’t produce results, burst into song,” was his theory, and we have half a hunch that the song produced better returns than either a letter or a personal call.

At any rate, here is a facsimile copy of a tax collection song, which Mr. Wagner uncovered and submitted in Weston’s recent prize contest. Possibly this is one of the most interesting and unique of all contributions. What do you think?

Try it on your piano, and let the lusty notes flow through your throat in accompaniment.

PROFESSOR AT HOME

Beg pardon Sir, I’ve called to say *(Presenting Papers)*
You have a little tax to pay
Be calm dear Sir, Pray do not frown
Here’s State tax School tax County town

One Week or two later

I will not call again on you
I’ve waited now a week or two

Still later

Here’s State tax School tax, let me see
The whole amount will be will be
State tax, School tax County town
Pay today and I’ll trust tomorrow
State tax School tax County town
Trouble saved by paying down
State tax School tax County town
Trouble saved by paying down
State tax School tax County town

FATHER ABRAHAM GOES FORTH

Yr. 1811

*Submitted by John F. Hennessy, County Clerk
Saratoga County, New York*

AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

IN New York State, in the year 1811, before divorce laws had been seriously thought of, Abraham Aylworth, a most courageous man, took legal measures to rid himself of a wife with whom he was unable to live in peace. In due form Mr. Aylworth signed over all his responsibilities to his eldest son. This is probably one of the first irregular divorce proceedings, to be recorded in official documents.

It follows:

BE IT KNOWN to all whom this may concern that I, ABRAHAM AYLWORTH, of the Town of Halfmoon, County of Saratoga & State of New York, having had the ill fortune to be married to a woman with whom I cannot live in peace, I have finally determined to leave my Country, Children & Friends to the mercy of God & seek a peaceful asylum in a far country, I do therefore appoint my son, James P. Aylworth, my attorney, superintendent & agent in all things to act to me & in my place to take full possession of my property, real & personal of my house & land & take the care & oversight of my family, to collect all debts due to me & pay such as I owe to make such arrangements, agreements or bargains in my name as he shall think proper & it shall be lawful & binding on me as if I had done it myself.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand & seal this thirty-first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & eleven.

Signed, sealed &
delivered in Presence
of Gurdon Marchant,
Shadrack Remington.

(Signed) ABRAHAM AYLWORTH L. S.

Personally came and appeared before me at Ballston, Gurdon Marchant, to me well known and made solemn oath that he heard and see the within named ABRAHAM AYLWORTH, sign, seal and deliver the within written Power of Attorney, as his act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and that he together with Shadrack Remington signed there names as witnesses at the time of sealing and delivery of the same and I having carefully examined the same and finding no material interlinations obliterations or erasures, do allow the same to be recorded.

GIVEN under my hand at Ballston this third day of August, in the year of our Lord 1811.

(Signed) Amos Larkin, Justice.



WILL OF A GREAT EMPIRE BUILDER

Yr. 1868

*Submitted by William Barber, County Clerk and Recorder
Pueblo County, Pueblo, Colorado*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 10

EVERY community in the land can produce public records that are of local significance or interest and a search of the states of the Far West would undoubtedly develop much that is curious, humorous or tragic. The west, however, was the permanent abiding place of very few men of national reputation and official book records regarding them are not numerous. Of the men who were identified with the early days of Colorado, there is only one of more than local fame and his citizenship is attested by the filing of a last will and testament—Brigadier General Christopher Carson, known to history as Kit Carson.

General Carson was the outstanding figure in the building of the Far West insofar as national reputation is concerned and his life and works have been the theme of numerous biographies, to say nothing of countless thrilling romances with which the average American boy is familiar.

Almost a century ago, Kit Carson, then a boy in his early teens, ran away from his Missouri home and joined a wagon train bound for Santa Fe, New Mexico, the commercial capital for a thousand miles of territory and at that time under the government of the Republic of Mexico. He remained in the west throughout his entire after life, learned the language and customs of the Mexicans and of the Indian tribes, and many of the adventures ascribed to him are by no means mythical. His innate honesty, fair dealing, magnificent

courage, intelligence and far-sighted diplomacy, combined with exceptional qualities of leadership, were recognized by the officials of the national government so that from the position of scout-interpreter, Carson gradually advanced to the high dignity of brigadier general in the United States army with supreme command over an empire in extent. His early schooling was very meager but he found time to acquire a good practical education and his penmanship was plain and legible.

General Carson made his headquarters at Fort Lyons in Pueblo County, Colorado, a frontier post on the Arkansas River about 75 miles east of the county seat, Pueblo, and there on May 15, 1868, he made his will. This document was filed on October 6 of the same year in the probate records of Pueblo County and is still on file, being docketed the same as any other official case.

While reference is made to Kit Carson's will in various historical and biographical works, a facsimile of the instrument has never been published and, so far as the court house oldest attaches call to mind, it has never been photographed until the present time.

The facsimile copy of Kit Carson's Will is reproduced herewith, as follows:

Filed in Probate
Court, June 1, 1868
M. G. Bradford
Judge

Fort Lyon
Pueblo County
Colorado Territory
May 15th 1868.

I, Christopher Carson, a resident of Pueblo County, Colorado Territory, knowing the uncertainty of life, and being now of sound mind, do make this, my last Will and Testament.

To Wit:

First. It is my will, that of my cattle, numbering from one hundred to two hundred head, such only, shall be sold, from time to time, as may be necessary for the support of my children; the balance to be retained, with the increase, for the benefit of my children.

Secondly. It is my will, that my seven yoke of steers, and two ox wagons, shall be kept by my administrator, for the use and support of my children.

Thirdly. It is my will, that my four horses and one carriage, shall be kept by my administrator, for the use and support of my children.

Fourthly. It is my will, that my house and lot, with all the improvements, in Taos, N. M. be sold by my administrator for a sum not less than one thousand dollars, the proceeds to be used for the benefit of my children. If the property, above named, will not bring the sum of one thousand dollars, it is my will that it be rented annually, and the amounts so received, used for the benefit of my children.

Fifthly. It is my will, that my furniture in my house in Taos, N. M. be sold by my administrator, and the proceeds used by him, for the benefit of my children.

Sixthly. It is my will, that some two or three pieces of land, lying in the Valley of Taos, N. M. the titles to which are in my wife's name, be rented, from year to year, to the highest bidder, and the sums so received, be used by my administrator, for the benefit of my children.

Seventhly. It is my will, that the accruing interest, at the rate of ten per cent per annum, on a Promissory Note for the sum of three thousand dollars, drawn in my favor and signed by L. B. Maxwell of Cimmaron, N. M. be paid to my administrator, the amount so received, to be used by him, for the burial expenses of myself and wife.

Eighthly. It is my will, that my Administrator gets security for the Promissory Note of three thousand dollars, drawn in my favor, and signed by L. B. Maxwell, of Cimmaron, N. M. and failing in that, to collect the note, and loan the money on good security, and at the highest rate of interest obtainable. The annual interest to be used by him, for the support of my children.

Ninthly. It is my will, that any moneys which may be due me from Mr. Myer of Costilla, C. T. and Mr. Rudolph the sutler of Fort Garland, C. T. be paid over to my administrator, to be used by him for the support of my children.

Tenthly. It is my will, that any moneys which may be due from Mr. L. B. Maxwell, for cattle sold to Mr. Frank Pape, be paid to my administrator, the amount so received to be used by him, for the support of my children.

Lastly. I hereby appoint *Mr. Thomas O. Boggs*, of Pueblo Co., Col. Ter. my administrator, to carry out the provisions of this, my last will, and testament.

Signed this 15th day of May,
one thousand eight hundred and
sixty eight, in the presence

of
J. A. Fitzgerald
H. R. Tilton

(Signed) C. Carson

Recorded, Oct. 6, 1868

M. G. Bradford
Probate Judge

BREAKING SABBATH DAY WAS SERIOUS OFFENSE Yr. 1812

*Submitted by Miss Mary F. Manes, Deputy Recorder
Ashtabula County, Ohio*

AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

BACK in the days when Blue Laws were enforced, but were not known as such, harsh treatment was dealt out by Puritans who frowned upon the less orthodox members. A frank disregard for the precepts of church and government in those days warranted the following severe fine:

State of Ohio,
Ashtabula County, ss.
July 22d, 1812.

By virtue of a warrant, Jonathan Warner, appeared before me, and after witnesses being heard, it is my opinion, that the said Warner pay the sum of seventy five cents and cost for raking eight cocks of hay on the Sabbath, of the 11th day of July, 1812, notwithstanding the said Warner's hay might have been injured by a heavy thunder shower.

(Signed) Ezra Dibble
Justice Peace.

Truth: Jona.' Warner
Recorded in Volume A, Page 276 of
Ashtabula County Deed Records.





EXTRACT FROM BUFFALO BILL'S WILL

Yr. 1906

*Submitted by Mrs. Orilla Downing, Clerk, District Court
Park County, Cody, Wyoming*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 10

ONE of the most colorful characters in American history was known to boys and girls, as well as grown-up boys and girls everywhere, as an inspiration second to none in Western history. You may anticipate that we have reference to William F. Cody, more popularly and affectionately known as "Buffalo Bill."

Below is an extract from a will made by this famous hero, dated February 14th, 1906, and filed in the District Court of Park County, Wyoming, on the 21st day of February, 1917.

As Buffalo Bill made a will at a later date, the 1906 will was never proven. At the time the 1906 will was executed, the famous character was at the top of his career.

In the later years of his life he suffered reverses, and at the time of his death he left very little property of any kind whatsoever. As shown by the inventory and appraisal of his estate, the total value of all of his property at the time of his death was only \$3,454.27.

The paragraph reads as follows:

Second. It is my wish and I hereby direct that my body shall be buried in some suitable plot of ground on Cedar Mountain, overlooking the town of Cody, Wyoming, in order that my mortal remains shall lie in close proximity to that fair section of my native Country which bears my name and in the growth and development of which I have taken so deep and loving an interest, and to which wheresoever and to whatever parts of the earth I have wandered I have always longed to return. I further direct that there shall be erected over my grave, to mark the spot where my body lies, a monument wrought from native Red stone in the form of a mammoth Buffalo, and placed in such a position as to be visible from the town, in order that it may be a constant reminder to my fellow citizens that it was the great wish of its founder that Cody should not only grow in prosperity and become a populous and influential metropolis, but that it should be distinguished for the purity of its government and the loyalty of its citizens to the institution of our beloved Country.

BOUNDARY RUNS INTO HORNET'S NEST

Yr. (Undated)

*Submitted by T. H. Reeves, Treasurer
Buncombe County, North Carolina*

AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, North Carolina, has many quaint records upon its books. This tells of a mountain magistrate who was very careful in writing a good beginning for a deed, but who was not so particular where the boundaries ran. No wonder oldtimers settled their property lines by feuds.

In the mountains of Western North Carolina, there lived a venerable old magistrate, who besides attending the judicial duties of his office, wrote all the deeds, contracts et cet. for the country side.

One day a neighbor came to have him write a deed, he procured his ink, pen and fools-cap and started at his laborious task.

Being very particular to locate his beginning point, he used one whole page of his fools-cap for this purpose, but when he wrote his boundary lines, the first one read—"Running up the hollow, in a North Westerly direction about 75 yards to a large Hornet's Nest, on the right bank of the branch."





IMPERISHABLE INDIAN RECORDS

Yr. (Undated)

*Submitted by William A. Hyde, Probate Judge
Bannock County, Pocatello, Idaho*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 11

BEFORE such a thing as a county was known in Idaho, or in any of the states of the Union, or before there was a headquarters for the garnering of contracts, or the recording of instruments, Nature had designated a place and had made a book, and the owners in fee-simple of this land of America, the native Indians, had written upon it the imperishable records of their tribes.

This book was bound a million years ago when some mighty heat first melted and fused, and then unfolded the great pages of lava stone which have lain since then uninjured by Summer's sun and Winter's frosts.

Before the Indian wrote, Job, who knew the value of permanent records, had exclaimed: "O that my words were * * * * graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever!" Whether with pen of iron or of flint, we do not know, but the Indians have left their history, more or less intelligible to modern men, and it will remain, but for the work of vandals, as long as adamant endures.

Within twenty minutes' walk of the repository of our county records, stands this ancient book with its interesting inscriptions. Artists have in some places followed the deep cuttings in the rock with white paint that they may be photographed. Local archaeologists have by the aid of traditions handed down from father to son among the natives, compiled a key for the interpretation of their writings, and thus the inner history of this race of men is becoming known. From what has already been acquired, what a chance for



the imagination of man! Around the brief facts known may be woven historical romances that would fill volumes.

As an example of the many.

The inscription as illustrated at the top of Page 49 marks an event as epochal in its nature to the Indians as was the dispersion of the tribes of Israel from Palestine. Indians say that the circle shown represents a root tribe; that the time came when some social cataclysm divided them, and that six tribes sprang from the one. Of the six, four occupied comparatively local territory, and two removed to more distant parts. The Bannocks went east into Montana, the Sheepeaters north into the Yellowstone country, the Shoshones north along the Snake river, and the Pahutes west into Oregon. From the main stem the Ute tribe spread into the mountains to the west, and the Tobikhar still further into California. The history is there in the picture as intelligible to them as Ridpath's history is to us white men.

Illustrated at the top of Page 50 is an historical item as important to the Indians, as the celebrated peace meeting at Versailles in 1918, or that at Locarno of recent date. Here is a record of an ancient council of chieftains (by us called statesmen) representing the tribes.

Between the tribes represented by these twenty-eight warriors, now stolidly sitting here, have been long standing feuds that have engendered much war and bloodshed, and the hand as shown at the top within the circle is the sign of enmity. The Indian's hand has been against every man not of his tribe, and every man's hand has been against him. The central figure is the symbol showing that the malignant forces that have been blown together by "the four winds" have been appeased and satisfied, and the lower figure is a symbol signifying the putting to an end of hatred. The result is concord and an agreement, and their historian or medicine man records it here to last until the end of time.

And thus it is, that in a country just out of the pioneering stage, in a comparatively new county, without the musty files of our forefathers to refer to for ancient chronicles, and within hailing distance of modern offices and equipment, there comes this primitive race to give us lessons of simplicity and permanence in record keeping, which we, even in our enlightened ways, would do well to emulate.



TRAGEDIES OF INDIAN WARFARE

Yr. 1877

*Submitted by Aaron F. Parker, County Treasurer
Idaho County, Grangeville, Idaho*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 11

“A people that takes no pride in the noble achievements
of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy
to be remembered with pride by remote descendants.”

Macauley.

INDIAN hostilities in Central Idaho were known as the “Sheepeater” campaigns of 1878 and 1879. Only recently has the War Department given these troubles official recognition but now the Cemeterial Division of the Q. M. G. has sanctioned the erection, over Private Egan’s lonely grave, of a 5-foot conical monument of boulders, laid in cement and surmounted by a marble headstone of the World War design, which will mark not only the grave but also the site of the engagement of August 20, 1879, on Big Creek at Soldier Bar. So remote is this section, far up in the fastnesses of the Salmon river canyon in the golden heart of central Idaho, that the stone will have to be hauled about 70 miles by wagon and 40 miles by pack mules to reach its destination.

The story of the Nez Perce war of 1877 is the story of the epic flight of Chief Joseph and his tribesmen over 2000 miles of the roughest country in North America; of a retreat conducted with such masterly skill as to win the highest praise for the Indian leader from the Army officers who tried in vain to catch him. The war finally ended in the Bear Paw mountains of Montana when the late Gen. Nelson A. Miles and the Fifth infantry finally intercepted him and held him at bay until Gen. Howard and his weary troopers came up and the hostiles surrendered.

The “Sheepeaters” derived their name from their subsistence on mountain sheep killed during their summer hunting trips into the rugged fastnesses of the mountain hinterland. They were a few mongrel Indians of unknown pedigree who inhabited the isolated, and at that time scantily settled, Council and Indian valleys of the upper Weiser river. Except for their natural propensity for raiding ranches and running off stock they were comparatively peaceful.

The Chief Joseph war of 1877 aroused general unrest among the tribal Indians of the entire Pacific northwest and this condition was further aggravated by the Bannock war of 1878 under the leadership of Buffalo Horn. With the first defeat of Buffalo Horn in southeastern Idaho, many of his hostiles escaped to the Weiser country and joined forces with Eagle Eye, War Jack and Chuck, tribal chiefs of

the "Sheepeaters", thus strengthening and encouraging them to make trouble, with the hope of chasing Buffalo Horn and his myrmidons entirely out of Idaho.

Trouble started on June 17, 1878, when the "Sheepeaters" and their renegade Bannock recruits raided ranches in Indian valley, some hours before dawn, and ran off with about 6 head of horses owned by William Munday, Tom Healey, and Jake Grosclose. These three, accompanied by "Three-Fingers" Smith, a veteran of the Modoc war of 1872-73, pursued the hostiles to recover their stolen stock. They were ambushed and the three men killed, leaving "Three-Fingers" badly wounded but still able to make his way to the Calvin R. White mail station on the Little Salmon Meadows and report the tragedy.

A little band of four men, among them the writer, who had served with Company E., 1st regiment Idaho volunteers, during the Nez Perce war, set out to chase the hostiles, recapture the stolen stock for the benefit of the widows, and with the hope of capturing or otherwise disposing of the murderers. They maintained the pursuit for two days and nights after they had reached the scene of the tragedy but at that point the last vestige of the trail was wiped out by torrential rains and the chase was abandoned.

The bodies of the three victims were buried by the troops and, to perpetuate their memory they had inscribed upon one of the slabs, behind which the enemy had lain concealed, the names of the victims and the date of the event under crossed rifles.

"Three-Fingers" Smith recovered from his wounds and lived for some years. He was a prototype of the artist Proctor's picture, delineating the Pioneer, tall and rangy, and a typical mountain man accustomed to hardships. The writer met him again in 1883, on the south fork of Salmon river at Elk creek, when the events of the 1878 campaign were again gone over.

Early in the Spring of 1879 the "Sheepeaters" inaugurated another campaign of murders and depredations. In the hostilities which ensued they eluded three bodies of troops sent against them, defeating one, and resisted capture until late in the fall, when they surrendered with the honors of war—quite a record considering the circumstances.

In March or April of 1879 the hostiles made their first killings by the murders of Hugh Johnson and Peter Dorsey near Warrens, a prosperous placer mining camp, along the south fork of the Salmon river. The bodies were found some time later, after a thorough search had been made for the missing men. Indian signs were discovered and the circumstances warranted the conclusion that the outrages had been committed by redskins.

Thereupon a messenger was dispatched to Camp Howard requesting that a force be sent to protect the Warren community and capture the Indians. Lieut. Henry Catley set out with a detachment of 48 mounted men of the 2nd infantry early in July, accompanied by a large pack train, with supplies for several weeks. They marched eastward toward the middle fork of the Salmon river for eleven days before they found the Indian camp, 8 miles below on Big Creek.

Details of the happenings which followed the discovery of the Indians, the attack on the troops, the retreat, the fight on Vinegar Hill, and the return to Warrens,—was made public by an official report of Lieut. Muhlenberg, a member of the expedition, dated October 28, 1879, copies of which are still privately owned.

Subsequently Lieut. Catley was subjected to a court martial at Fort Walla Walla in January, 1880, on charges of "Misbehaviour, etc., in the presence of the enemy in connection with his retreats in Idaho in 1879." The verdict of the court martial was "Guilty as Charged" and recommended his dismissal from the service.

This verdict was set aside by President Rutherford B. Hayes.

The Indians inaugurated the second tragedy on the little farm of James P. Rains, who had never quarreled with the Indians and was held in the highest respect by everybody in those mountains. He was warned of the approach of the "Sheepeaters" when Catley's command traveled through his farm enroute to Camp Howard and Mr. Rains promptly took his family to safety at Warrens. But after ten days had elapsed and, seeing or hearing nothing about Indians being anywhere in that region, he returned to his ranch to complete the harvesting of his hay crop. He was assisted by three neighbors and, as they were putting the last bale through the press, well towards evening, they were attacked by a band of seven redskins. Rains was killed and his cabin burned, but the others escaped and got back to Warrens in safety.

The damage to the property and contents of the buildings was estimated at \$3000, which the government was asked to pay to the widow and the two children; but her claim, like all of the depredation claims filed by the victims of Idaho county during the Nez Perce war, was thrown out by the claims commission, and the widows left absolutely destitute through the deviltry of the so-called "Wards of the Nation."

Col. R. F. Bernard, in command of a company of 1st. cavalry troops, fresh from Boise barracks, with a portion of the Catley 2nd. infantry, took up the pursuit of the "Sheepeaters" after Catley was relieved. They remained in the mountains until early in September but were unsuccessful in capturing the hostiles. The presence of the troops, however, kept the Indians from further outrages.

Early in July second Lieut. Edward S. Farrow was detailed with a force of 40 men of the 21st infantry and 20 Umatilla Indian scouts with instructions to commence a fall campaign against the "Sheepeaters." Farrow was energetic and profoundly impressed the hostiles with his determination to capture them. An official letter from the Adjutant general of the War dept., Washington, D. C., dated June 18, 1925, in response to enquiries made by the writer, states:

"Nothing has been found of record showing definitely the date of surrender of the last party of Sheepeater Indians to Second Lieutenant Edward S. Farrow, 21st. Infantry, in 1879. However, the records indicate that Lieutenant Farrow and his force of Umatilla Indian Scouts captured 14 Sheepeaters at Big Salmon Meadows September 21; compelled the surrender of 39 near the middle fork of Salmon river October 1, and compelled the surrender of 12 October 6, 1879, near Chamberlain basin."

As publisher of the "Nez Perce News," at Lewiston, Idaho, in 1885, the writer published the following editorial:

"Six years of patient industry have rebuilt the waste places caused by the war, and made the face of the country more beautiful than ever. Not even the farms of the Walla Walla valley show better evidence of careful agriculture than can be seen on Camas Prairie at this time. Hard as were the experiences of our people during the war of 1877, the results it has brought have advanced them in the race of life and bettered their condition by giving them broader views of men and things than are usually found in communities so isolated. The scars of war have been covered with the fruits of peace, and Camas Prairie is now a garden spot, making manifest the broad difference between the elevating influences of our Caucasian civilization and the enforced degradation by the Government of the Indians on the adjoining reservation."

*Submitted by Miss B. Dunlap, County Clerk
Johnson County, Arkansas*

AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

ALTHOUGH despised by many of his countrymen, Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States during the Civil War, had one staunch admirer, who without qualification, bequeathed to him her entire fortune.

The following is the copy of this patriotic lady's will, which was made in Harrison County, Mississippi, but found in the records of Jefferson County, Arkansas.

Record of the last will and testament of Mrs. Sarah Ann Dorsey, Beauvoir, Harrison County, Mississippi.

I, Sarah Ann Dorsey, of Tenos Parrish, Louisiana, being aware of the uncertainty of life, and being now in sound health, of mind and body, do make this my last Will and Testament, which I write, sign and seal with my own hand, in the presence of three competent witnesses.

I possess property in the States of Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas. I owe no obligations of any sort whatever to any relatives of my own. I have done all I could for them during my life. I, therefore, give and bequeath all my property, real, personal and mixed, wherever located and situated, wholly and entirely, without hinderance or qualification, to my most honored and esteemed friend, Jefferson Davis, ex-president of the Confederate States, for his sole use and benefit in fee simple, and I hereby constitute him my sole heir, Executor and Administrator.

If Jefferson Davis should not survive me, I give all that I have bequeathed to him to his youngest daughter, Varina.

I do not intend to share in the ingratitude of my County towards the man, who is, in my eyes, the highest and noblest in existence.

In testimony whereof, I sign this Will, written with my own hands in the presence of W. T. Walthall, F. L. Hewes and John C. Craig.

Subscribing witnesses residents of Harrison County, Mississippi. Signed on the 4th day of January, 1878.

Sarah Ann Dorsey.



INTERESTING HISTORY OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENT Yr. 1849

*Submitted by Ruth C. Collier, Office of Board of Commissioners
Multnomah County, Portland, Oregon*

WINNER OF FIRST AWARD IN GROUP 12

IN a small room, or vault, in the old court house in the little town of Oregon City is filed the first official plat of the proud city of San Francisco; and thereby hangs a tale—a tale of other days—western pioneer days that have to do with Indian trails, fur trappers, covered wagons, the establishment of constitutional government in Oregon and the rush of gold miners to California in '49—romance and adventure, real and more absorbing than any tale of fiction.

Yellow with age this little map $18\frac{1}{2}'' \times 22\frac{1}{2}''$ is a plat of about five hundred city blocks of what is now the central business district of San Francisco and upon the border of the plat is this legend:

Official Map
of
San Francisco
Compiled from the field notes of
Official Re-survey
made by
Wm. M. Eddy, C. E.
Surveyor of the town of San Francisco
Drawn by Alex. Zakrzewski
Ex. Polish Officer
Copy for record in the
Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court
of
Oregon
To secure the copyright
Filed in the Clerk's Office
Oregon City this 1st day of February, A. D. 1850
Geo. L. Curry, Clerk
By F. S. Holland, Depty.

Accompanying the map is the following well-preserved letter written in longhand on now faded blue note-paper:

“Take this map and file it in the Clerk’s Office of the U. S. District Court for the Territory of Oregon as being,

Title } “Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1849 in the Clerks Office
 } of District Court of the District of Oregon & Cal’a

be sure to enter it *regardless of expense*, and bring me the bill *with the Certificate of the Clerk*, that the map was so filed.

Yours

Wm. M. Eddy

San Francisco, Nov 9/49

To Capt Irving
 Bark John W. Cater
San Francisco Nov. 9th, 1849

I hereby appoint Capt. Wm. Irving as my agent and attorney to enter in the Clerks Office of the U. S. District Court for Oregon the accompanying map as per its title, in my name

Wm. M. Eddy

And entered in the record, also written in longhand—all this was before the days of typewriter—is this Certificate and indorsement:

“Territory of Oregon
Clackamas County

Be it remembered that on this 1st day of February A. D. 1850, William M. Eddy of San Francisco, California, hath deposited in this office the title of a map, the title of which is in the words following to wit: Official “Map of San Francisco, compiled from the field notes of the Official Re-survey made by William M. Eddy C. E. Surveyor of the Town of San Francisco” the title of which he claims as author, in conformity with an act of Congress entitled an Act, to amend the several acts respecting copyrights.

Geo. L. Curry, Clerk U. S. District
Court, in and for Clackamas County in
Territory of Oregon—

By F. S. Holland, Depty.

For three-quarters of a century prior to the date of filing this plat of San Francisco with Geo. L. Curry, then clerk, later Governor of Oregon, California was a province first of Spain and then of Mexico. This was the period in California of exploration and partial settlement. And what a fairyland for exploration California was! With a delightful climate, forests of gnarled oaks and giant Redwoods, beautiful vistas and an abundance of game, it was an Eden through which the adventurous Portola and the intrepid Anza wandered; while the good Fra Junipero Serra was busy founding Catholic missions from San Diego to San Francisco, each a day’s journey apart.

Except for the subdued natives the population was sparse and chiefly associated with the missions. Very few Americans had ever visited the country and those few who happened there came either as members of crews of occasional ships which called for hides and

tallow, the chief exports of the country, or as fur-trappers who in search of pelts had penetrated the mountain ranges to the east or had come into the Sacramento Valley over the Indian trails from Oregon.

Then in 1848 something happened. Gold was discovered by an Oregonian while digging a mill-race on American river.

That winter the news of the discovery of the tremendously rich deposits of gold had reached the United States and the rush for California was on. Apparently every able-bodied man, the world over, who could sever existing ties started by sea and land for the placers and gold mines of California. By the summer of 1849 the first of the Argonauts began to arrive in San Francisco Bay and the little Spanish mission at Yerba Buena suddenly became the unorganized city of San Francisco—a city of men, reckless and turbulent. There were practically no women or children.

A great population had gathered before there was any regular government to keep it in order. California had been ceded to the United States as a result of the Mexican war and was not yet admitted to the Union.

As soon as the strong men who stood for law and order could bring order out of the existing chaos they did so. They organized a "Vigilance Committee" which, after fair deliberations, executed a sufficient number of murderers to subdue other criminals, and in the early autumn a re-survey of the site of the town was made that property rights could be accurately determined.

But where to file the plat? Where to establish the record of survey? There was no legal machinery in California available for the purpose.

But in Oregon, settled by men with families who had come earlier with their covered wagons into a beautiful agricultural land and who were living under entirely different circumstances and imbued with different ideals, was an organized American government.

At the falls of the Willamette was a little settlement consisting of log cabins and a few frame buildings straggling along one nameless street—almost one thousand miles distant by water, the only possible route at that season, from San Francisco—and there, in Oregon City, the seat of the first legal American government on the Pacific Coast, this first plat of the City of San Francisco was sent by a messenger, (there was no mail service), Captain William Irving of the bark "John W. Cater," and filed, and can yet be seen as the first legal document of the orderly beginning of a great American City.

THIRD DEGREE METHODS USED IN EARLY DAYS Yr. 1707

*Submitted by William N. Callahan, Deputy County Clerk
Monmouth County, New Jersey*

AWARDED HONORABLE MENTION

THE methods of bringing a man to justice in 1707, while not scientifically employed, were as effective as those today. Herewith follows a record of how God took the witness stand and in His own way testified against a man who stole hogs, and of the awful judgment that fell upon him.

Record of God's judgment on Richard Combs, at Shrewsbury, in a Court of Sessions, Anno Dom. 1707

Richard Combes, being on his examination before the Court, on charge of stealing Edward Taylor's hogs; he was bold in declaring his innocency, and was told by the Justices to take care, how he did persist to deny, that which all men did believe him guilty of. He then again called upon God, and said that God knew his innocency, and that he was clear of the charge of stealing hogs. One or two of the Justices looking full in his face, prayed him to forbear appealing to the Great Being, who would one day meet with him for it, if he was guilty of the crime charged. He again to call on God, saying that God knew he was clear, and suddenly fell down, like one struck dead. He was helped up, just opened his eyes, and fell down again, and looked like a dead man, and did not recover in a considerable time to be sensible. His tongue hung out of his mouth, and he did not wholly come to himself in some weeks.

By order of the Court,

(Signed) James Bollen, Clerk





BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER

Yr. 1806

*Submitted by F. A. Devleming, Auditor
Garfield County, Pomeroy, Washington*

WINNER OF SECOND AWARD IN GROUP 12

WHEN Lewis and Clark came through the Pataha Valley in southeastern Washington in the year 1806, on their return journey to civilization, they halted for a brief rest on the banks of the Kimooenem Creek, at the bottom of a steep grade now known as the Marengo grade. (This grade is located about six miles west of Pomeroy, the County seat of Garfield County, State of Washington.) The scars of the old Nez Perce Indian trails are still visible; the very road over which the famous explorers traveled is used at the present time. One cannot help noticing off to one side of the road a lonely and forlorn-looking grave. I passed there many times, and I always wondered who might be buried there. Somehow I had a feeling that this simple mound of earth was holding a secret, a tragic secret maybe, buried with the man or woman who was sleeping the sleep that knows no awakening under the green turf.

At the very first opportunity, I inquired diligently from some of the old settlers in the valley, and I invariably received the same answer: "Why, that is the grave of Louis Marengo, the squaw man of many years ago." And who was Louis Marengo? The name intrigued me. It appeared simple enough to the old settlers. I was told that Louis Marengo was an active, wiry, energetic little Frenchman, the first white man that ever lived on the Tucannon, at that time called the Kimooenem, meaning "swift water" in the Nez Perce language.

Louis Maranguin was living with his wife and six children at the foot of the grade that was named after him. Louis' real name was Raboin, pronounced "Radbo'n" in the French language. He was of French extraction, probably a Louisiana Frenchman. To his intimate friends he was known as "Maranguin," a French word meaning mosquito, because of his lively disposition, and most likely because of his gift of swift repartee and his stinging tongue. To his white friends he had long ago become Louis Marengo, because the French name Maranguin was more or less unpronounceable to English speaking people. They simply softened it down to Marengo.

His six children were growing up, and Louis was proud of them. One of the boys had just reached the age of seventeen, a fine-looking upstanding lad, quick-tempered, active and energetic like his father. Among the many visitors at Louis' hospitable home a coy Nez Perce maiden caught the young man's fancy, and romance developed swiftly and inevitably. With the impetuosity of his French ancestry, the young man wooed the maiden and sought her hand in marriage. Louis looked with disfavor upon the match. The boy was so young yet, he said, couldn't he wait a few years? Couldn't he go back to the wonderful city of St. Louis for a little while and there mix and mingle with his French countrymen? No, the boy could not and would not wait. He had set his heart upon marrying the pretty Nez Perce maiden, and wouldn't his father give him half of his herd of horses to offer the customary marriage price to her parents? Louis flew into a rage. Bear in mind, he was a white man after all; he had six children growing up, and, much as he liked his many Indian friends, the very idea of buying the Nez Perce girl for his son with a bunch of valuable horses! NO, NO, NEVER! The young man listened to his father in sullen silence; he knew only too well that he could not change his mind. He began to brood. The parents of the Nez Perce girl still called occasionally,—without their daughter, however, and openly chided him. Wasn't his father one of the richest men of the country, and why couldn't he let the boy have those few measly horses?

As the summer came on, the shadows of tragedy began to fall upon the peaceful valley. One afternoon Louis Marengo was working in his little corn patch. A short distance away, his boy, that seventeen-year old lad, was crouching behind a boulder with a rifle in his trembling, feverish hands. Stark hatred, the hatred of insanity was blazing in the boy's eyes as he saw his father moving actively among the tall corn stalks. All of a sudden a shot rang out, and the echo carried it up and down the valley. The horrible crime had been perpetrated. With his life-blood slowly ebbing away Louis Raboin crawled back to the house, and the boy fled terror-stricken to his mother's folks, the Flat Head Indians in the Bitter Root valley, many miles away.

All night Louis Marengo lingered in agony. When dawn peeped over the basalt cliffs of the Tucannon valley the Angel of Death fluttered down upon the desolate homestead on the banks of the creek.

The victim of this foul murder was buried close to his home, on his donation claim, as was the custom in those days, and there, near the lovely Tucannon, on whose banks his children romped and played, by the crystal-clear waters he used to fish in, under the towering sentinels of the valley, he now sleeps the sleep that knows no awakening, heedless of the onward march of civilization, of which he was the forerunner.

There the murmur and the ripple of the river, the rustle of the leaves in the wind sing his last requiem. The Indian ponies he herded and owned, the tepees and canoes of his red friends and foes are all gone, and his life history is fast fading from the minds of the younger generation, like the memory of a dream.

An Appreciation

WE ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED TO OUR MANY FRIENDS AND CONTRIBUTORS WHO HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THIS INTERESTING VOLUME.

WE REGRET THAT WE CANNOT PUBLISH ALL OF THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BUT, IN DUE COURSE OF TIME, PRACTICALLY ALL ENTRIES WILL BE REPRINTED IN OUR HOUSE ORGAN, *WESTON'S RECORD*.

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